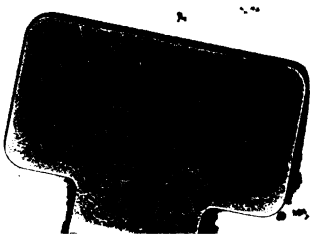

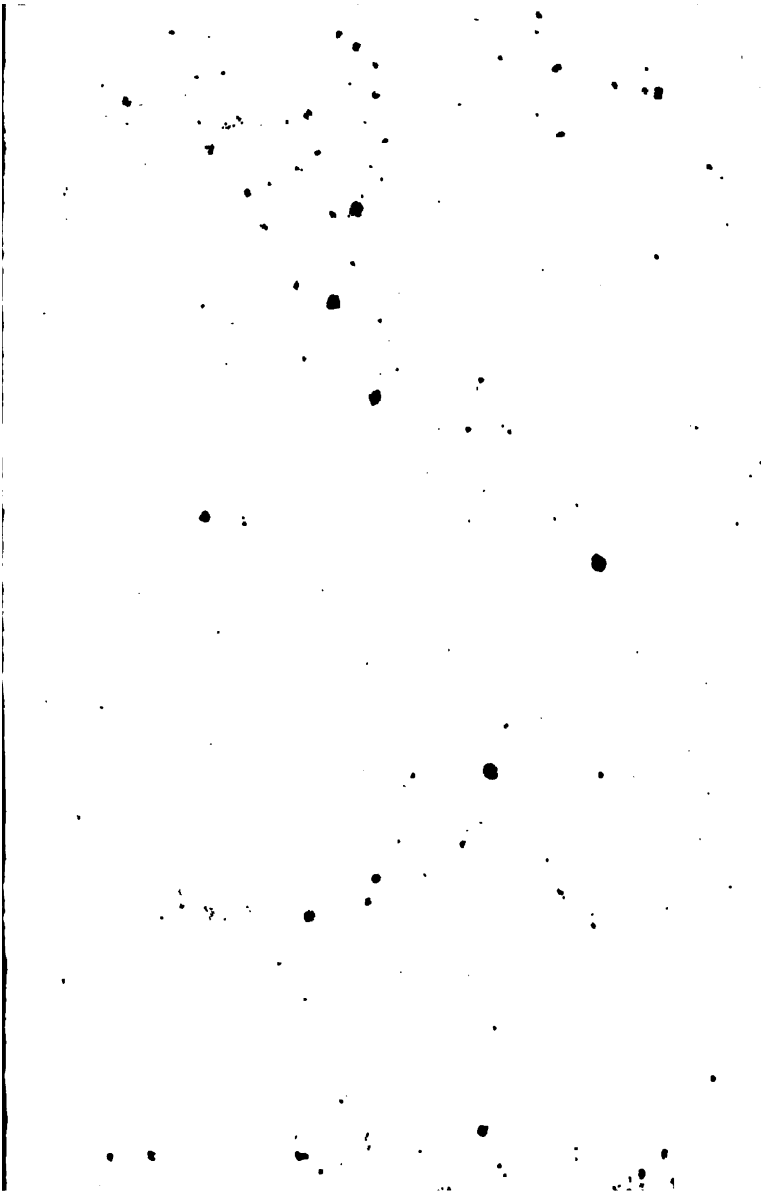

LIFE

OF

THE PRINCE CONSORT.

BY

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CHAPTER I.

THE HOUSE OF COBURG.

THE sudden blow, which, on Saturday, the 14th of December, 1861, made desolate the family of our most gracious Queen, is one which was felt to fall heavily on the nation at large; and the grief of the entire community, on hearing the news of the death of the Prince Consort, appears to be of so genuine and so permanent a character, that even the humblest of her Majesty's subjects may well feel excused if he attempts to supply the public with a brief and imperfect, but, he trusts, not inaccurate or worthless outline of the biography of one whom the hand of Death has so suddenly and so mysteriously arrested in the midst of his illustrious career of practical usefulness. It will be many a long month before the tears of grief will

be dried up within the royal walls of Windsor and of Osborne; and it will be long too before the name of the Prince Consort will pass away from the memories of those to whom he was known only by his public actions; and the author hopes that the present unpretending volume, which is little more than a digested collection of the contents of the public journals during the week that has elapsed since the decease of His Royal Highness, may tend in some slight degree to keep his august and venerated name in the remembrance which it deserves.

Before proceeding, however, to a biography of the Prince himself, it will be not an uninteresting task to place upon record some of the leading facts connected with the past history of that illustrious house which has given to England a Prince Consort worthy of England's Queen, and worthy of the land of his adoption. Our readers will therefore pardon us, if we dwell at something more than ordinary length on the rise of the house of Coburg, of which the late Prince was so noble and hopeful a scion.

The Dukedom of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, as it is now more generally termed, is situated in the heart of Germany, to whose confederation it be-

longs. It is 37 German square* miles in extent, and contains a population of about 150,000 souls. It consists of two parts—the Dukedom of Coburg, and the Dukedom of Gotha, which, after having been at different periods joined and again separated, were finally united in 1826, on the death of the reigning Duke of Gotha, whose only child, the Princess of Gotha, was married a few years previously to the then reigning Duke of Saxe-Coburg, the father of the Prince so recently deceased.

Coburg, the smaller of the two divisions, extends over about 9½ square miles, and contains about 50,000 inhabitants. It is bounded by the Kingdom of Bavaria and the Dukedom of Saxe Meiningen. It is hilly and well watered, and produces abundance of corn and fruit, while its pastures afford nourishment to numerous herds of cattle. The capital of Coburg, of the same name, stands on the river Itz, in the most charming part of the country, and boasts of a fine royal residence, the castle of Ehrenberg. On a lofty eminence near the town is situated the fortress of Coburg, together with an arsenal and a house of correction The royal country residence of Rosenau (which

* One German square mile contains about 22 English square miles.

was Prince Albert's birth-place) lies in a valley about three miles distant from the town, surrounded by a beautiful park. The Dukedom of Coburg, however, is not so forward as that of Gotha in commercial and industrial pursuits, or in general social progress; still its capital has a population of some 10,000, and includes a college with an observatory, and an establishment for the education of schoolmasters.

Gotha, the larger territory, is 27¼ German miles in extent, and contains about 100,000 inhabitants, who are remarkable, as a people, for their industry and enterprise, and for the high state of their trade, commerce, and agriculture. The Dukedom is bounded by the Kingdom of Prussia, the Grand Dukedom of Saxe Weimar, the Electorate of Hesse, the Dukedom of Saxe Meiningen, and the Principality of Schwarzburg. It is for the most part mountainous, though it abounds in valleys watered by the Unstrut and other rivers. Its capital, Gotha, is well built, situated in an agreeable country, and surrounded by garden lands. It boasts of a college, an establishment for the training of schoolmasters (the oldest of its kind in Germany), an orphan asylum, hospital, arsenal, &c., and contains a population which may be

roughly estimated at 15,000. Its museum contains an extensive and valuable library, with fine collections of coins, shells, engravings, and other treasures. The town is commanded by the lofty castle of Friedenstein, and at a short distance from it in the royal park, the pleasure-residence of Friedrichsthal, and on the summit of the Seeberg, an observatory of some little reputation, one of the best establishments of the kind.

The entire Dukedom of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha forms a part of the ancient kingdom of Thuringia, the first of those established in Germany on the death of Attila, King of the Huns. Its early history is, of course, involved in much obscurity: and we can scarcely regard Merewig, the first prince who is said to have borne sway in Thuringia, as a historical personage. We know, however, that when Clovis had established his kingdom in Gaul, he made war on Thuringia, which was reduced to the position of a Franconian province, under his sons, A.D. 551.

About the year A.D. 645, Radulf, Duke of Thuringia, shook off the yoke of the Franks so far as to get himself acknowledged hereditary duke, and it is said that his son or grandson Gozobert was converted to Christianity by Irish missionaries. But

it is certain that Boniface, "the Apostle of Germany," an Anglo-Saxon prelate of great piety and renown, established the Christian faith in Thuringia, and became, A.D. 746, the first Bishop of Menz, in which diocese Thuringia was included.

In the course of time, Thuringia fell under the Saxon emperors, and in A.D. 918 we find the crown of Germany bestowed on Henry I. (or the Fowler), who built and fortified the town of Misnia, on the Elbe, which became the capital of the Margraviate of Misnia, established by this sovereign. We have not space to record here the various steps and changes by which the sovereignty of Thuringia passed from the Saxon emperors to the Margraves of Misnia, or how it became hereditary in the house of Wettin; but must content ourselves with remarking it as a curious coincidence, that in the middle of the 12th century, the then Margrave of Misnia, one of Prince Albert's lineal ancestors, is handed down to us by historians as one of the most powerful princes that espoused the cause of the Guelphs against the Ghibelines.

About the middle of the 14th century, the territory of Coburg was added, by way of a bridal dower, to the lands of the house of Wettin; which, in A.D. 1485, was divided into two distinct lines, the elder

or electoral line of Ernest, and the younger or ducal line of Albert—an event to which the late reigning duke must be supposed to have historically referred when he christened his two sons Ernest and Albert respectively.

The second prince of the electoral line was Frederick the Wise, the founder of the University of Wittenburg, the firm friend and courageous patron of Luther and the Reformation: the Dukes of Saxony, of the line of Albert, also adhered to the Protestant cause; and from that day to the present the illustrious house from which our late Prince sprung have proved the surest and strongest supporters of Protestantism and progress in central Germany. By the powerful aid of the Emperor Charles V. the electoral dignity was transferred in A.D. 1547 from the line of Ernest to that of Albert, in the person of Maurice of Saxony, the first prince in the empire and the chief of the Protestant party; and though his dominions suffered a temporary severance after his death, yet eventually, after a variety of changes and vicissitudes which we have not space to record here, they were nearly all reunited, in 1807, by the Treaty of Tilsit, in the person of Duke Ernest of Saxe-Coburg and Saalfield, who, after the battle of Leipsic in 1813,

joined the Allies and conducted the siege of Maintz as commander of the 5th division of the German army. In 1808, after a personal negotiation at Paris, Duke Ernest returned to Coburg, and exerted himself with strenuous and laudable zeal to the work of restoring prosperity to his shattered and disordered country—a task not easily accomplished in such troublous and disastrous times. On the overthrow of Napoleon, in 1814, as is well known, the German states formed at the Congress of Vienna a federal union, called "the Germanic Confederation." Duke Ernest attended this Congress, and obtained for himself the Principality of Lichtenberg, beyond the Rhine, containing a population of 26,000 inhabitants. He is recorded to have uttered on this occasion a most spirited protest on behalf of the King of Saxony, the whole of whose kingdom was most selfishly designed, by the joint views of England, Russia, and Prussia, to fall to the share of the last-named monarchy. After the return of Napoleon from Elba, Duke Ernest commanded the Saxon troops and also a division of the Austrian army; and, at the head of their united forces, he blockaded Schlettstadt and New Breisach. It should be added, moreover, that he was not long in following the example of the Grand Duke of

Weimar, Charles Augustus, by granting to his subjects the benefit of a free constitution.

In 1825, died Frederick IV., the last reigning Duke of Saxe-Gotha and Altenburg. His heirs not being able to come to an amicable understanding among themselves, had recourse to the mediation of Frederick Augustus III., the Duke of Saxony; and the result of his arbitration was the agreement of inheritance of 1826, by which the Duke of Coburg relinquished Saalfield, and obtained in exchange the Dukedom of Gotha, with the exception of one small domain, when he assumed the title of Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

Duke Ernest removed his residence from Coburg to Gotha, and soon gained the affection of his new subjects by his extreme humanity and kindness, and by the unwearied solicitude with which he watched over the interests of his country. The reader will be able to form some idea of the spirit in which the affairs of the Dukedom were now conducted when we mention that the ecclesiastical court or consistory was specially required by the Duke to "promote religious, moral, and intellectual education throughout his dominions, in conformity with the spirit of the times and the necessities of

the people." The members of it were also required to "take care that the spiritual, moral, and religious improvement of all classes should be such as to qualify them for the duties of practical life, and that everything should be carefully removed from their view which could possibly lead them into the errors of superstition or mysticism."

In 1828, Duke Ernest concurred in the commercial association of central Germany, which was intended to act as a counterpoise to the Prussian Commercial Confederation; but when Hesse withdrew from the former association, the Duke joined his strength with the fortunes of Prussia.

As the Grand Duke had granted to his subjects a constitution of his own free will, and not under the force of external pressure, the stormy year 1830, which so violently reminded several continental sovereigns of broken faith and forgotten promises, witnessed peace and tranquillity in Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, though disturbances broke out in the principality of Lichtenberg, which the Duke was glad to hand over to Prussia for a yearly revenue of 80,000 dollars.

On Christmas Day, 1833, the Dukes of Saxe-Ullenburg and Saxe-Meiningen assembled, by invitation of the Duke Ernest, at Friedenstein, to

celebrate the birthday of the estimable sovereign, Ernest the Pius, their common ancestor and the builder of the Castle: and in honour of their illustrious progenitor they founded an order of merit under the title of the 'Order of the House of Ernest.'

The late reigning Duke, who died in January, 1844, was one of a family of nine children, two of whom died young, while the rest have held in their day important positions in the Courts of Europe. His eldest sister married the late Emmanuel Count Von Mensdorff Pouilly in Bohemia; the next was the wife of the uncle of the present King of Wurtemburg; the third married the late Grand Duke Constantine of Russia; and the other sister was the late Duchess of Kent; his next brother married the late Queen of Portugal, by whom he became the father of the late and present Kings of that country; and his youngest brother, Leopold, King of the Belgians, who in marrying the Princess Charlotte very nearly became Prince Consort of England, and who has founded for himself a continental sovereignty which is likely, to say the least, to hold a permanent place among the nations of Europe.

The truth is that it is impossible to overrate the

a party of thirty men, assembled at midnight in the little Saxon town of Altenburgh; by the treachery of one of the servants the party obtained an entrance into the castle of the Elector, and succeeded in carrying off his two children, Prince Ernst and Prince Albert the younger.

On reaching the precincts of the castle, Kunz handed over the elder boy to a confederate, and took charge of the other himself. The party then separated in two, and started off in opposite directions. But pursuers were on the track. The Electress had discovered her loss, and was promising anything for the recovery of her children. The ringing of the alarm-bells startled the peasantry, and the course of the vengeful Kunz was ultimately stopped by a grim-looking charcoal-burner, who, belabouring Kunz with his "poking pole," succeeded in vanquishing the captain and in restoring the Prince to the Electress, the news of which speedily led to the recovery of the other child. "How was it you dared attack so formidable a man as Kunz von Kaufungen?" demanded the delighted mother. "Madam," replied the collier, "I *drilled* him soundly with my 'poking pole,'" at which they all laughed, and called the collier "*der Triller*"—the Driller. The upshot of

the matter was that Kunz had to lay his head upon the block, while the "heaven-born collier," or Driller, as he was ever afterwards called, was invited to name whatever reward he coveted. The Elector and his lady were so overjoyed that they were ready to confer any boon he might choose to ask. But the charcoal burner was very modest. "Only liberty to cut, of scrags and waste wood, what will suffice for my charring purposes," said he. This was granted to the man and his posterity; made sure to him by legal deed; and to this was added so many yearly bushels of corn from the Electoral stock barns, and a handsome little farm to produce other necessaries for the good man and his successors; which properties, it is said, they enjoy to the present day. Since that time four centuries have passed, and twelve generations in the family have succeeded one another. The house divided itself into two lines, the "Ernestine" and "Albertine," and from each side numerous divisions and subdivisions sprang; properties, dukedoms, and possessions changing hands in the family in the meanwhile. The twelfth descendant in a direct line from the little boy Ernst, whom Kung-von-Kaufungen stole, is the subject of the memoir contained in the following chapter.

The ancestry of Prince Albert has been traced with great minuteness by the Rev. Edward Tauerschmidt, in his "Brief Historical Account of the Dukedom and Ducal House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha," from the middle of the 10th century, when it formed a portion of the kingdom of Thuringia, down to the present day; and he gives a regular list of the twenty-six progenitors through whom the line of descent has passed down to the illustrious Prince whose loss we are now mourning, from the Earl Dideric or Theodoric, who died A.D. 982; and as it is sure to be found of interest to our readers, especially those who are fond of genealogical studies, we venture to repeat it here. It runs as follows:—

1. Earl THEODORIC or DIDERIC, of the House of Bucizi, died A.D. 982.
2. DEDO, Earl of Wettin, died A.D. 1009.
3. DIDERIC, Earl of Wettin, died A.D. 1034.
4. THIMO, or TIMO, Margrave of Misnia, died about A.D. 1104.
5. CONRAD the GREAT, Margrave of Misnia, died A.D. 1157.
6. OTHO the RICH, Margrave of Misnia, died A.D. 1189.

7. Dideric the Oppressed, Margrave of Misnia, died 1220.
8. Henry the Illustrious, Margrave of Misnia, Landgrave of Thuringia, and Count Palatine of Saxony, died 1288.
9. Albrecht the Degenerate, Landgrave of Thuringia, and Count Palatine of Saxony, died 1314.
10. Frederick with the Wounded Cheek, Margrave of Misnia and Landgrave of Thuringia, died 1324.
11. Frederick the Serious, Margrave of Misnia and Landgrave of Thuringia, died 1349.
12. Frederick the Severe, Margrave of Misnia and Landgrave of Thuringia, died 1381.
13. Frederick the Warlike, Elector of Saxony, &c., died 1428.
14. Frederick the Benignant, Elector of Saxony, died 1464.
15. Ernest, Elector of Saxony, died 1486.
16. John the Constant, Elector of Saxony, died 1532.
17. John Frederick the Magnanimous, Elector of Saxony, died 1554.
18. John William, Duke of Saxe-Weimar, died 1573.

19. JOHN, Duke of Saxe-Weimar, died 1605.
20. ERNEST THE PIOUS, Duke of Saxe-Gotha, died 1675.
21. JOHN ERNEST, Duke of Saxe-Saalfeld, died 1729.
22. FRANCIS JOSIAS, Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Saalfeld, died 1764.
23. ERNEST FREDERICK, Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Saalfeld, died 1800.
24. FRANCIS Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Saalfeld, died 1806.
25. ERNEST, Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, was born in 1784, died 1844.
26. ALBERT, Prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Consort of Queen VICTORIA of Great Britain, was born, 1819, and died, Dec. 14, 1861.

"Sed genus et proavos, et quæ non fecimus ipsi
Vix ea nostra voco."

It is not the ancestry of a man, but his own high personal character and the virtues of his heart, by which the highest in the land must after all be weighed and estimated; but it will be well for those among the noblest of our countrymen, who are prone to boast of their own distinguished ancestors, to see if they can produce as noble a line of progenitors out of their ancestral records, as the

German Prince who wooed and won the hand of England's Queen.

The Prince Consort was heir presumptive to his brother, the reigning Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, who married in May 1842, the Princess Alexandrina Louisa Amelia Frederica Sophia, eldest daughter of Leopold, late Grand Duke of Baden, by whom, however, he has never had any issue.

CHAPTER II.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.*

On Sunday morning, December 15th, at a few minutes past twelve o'clock, the great bell of St. Paul's announced to the inhabitants of the metropolis that death had entered for a second time this year the circle of the Royal Family, and that his Royal Highness the Prince Consort of our beloved Queen had breathed his last. The electric telegraph had already communicated to the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House the sad intelligence that the Prince died at Windsor Castle at ten minutes to eleven the previous evening. A full account of his Royal Highness's illness and death will be found in the next chapter. The present chapter we devote to a brief biographical sketch of the illustrious Prince.

His Royal Highness Prince Albert-Francis-Augustus-Charles-Emmanuel of Saxe-Coburg

* For the greater portion of the substance of this chapter we are indebted to the very full memoir of the late Prince Consort, which appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*, Dec. 16th, 1861.

and Gotha, K.G., &c., was the younger of the two sons of Ernest, the late reigning Duke of Saxe-Coburg, by hisfirst wife, the Princess Louisa, only child of Augustus, reigning Duke of Saxe Gotha, a lady of remarkable wit and beauty. He was born at the Castle of Rosenau, near Coburg, on the 26th of August, 1819, so that he was three months younger than our Queen. Shortly after his birth, some domestic disagreements led to the separation of the reigning Duke and Duchess, when her Serene Highness withdrew to a castle in the neighbourhood of Altenburgh, where she died, August 30, 1831, having lived in retirement during the intervening years. Prince Albert's father was one of a numerous family,* and, as most English readers are aware, the late Duchess of Kent was one of his sisters, so that the Prince and his future wife were first cousins by birth.

The early childhood of the Prince was passed in company with his elder brother Ernest, the present reigning Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, at the Castle of Chronburg, where the education of the two children was conducted with the greatest care by masters from the college at

* See an account of the House of Coburg, as given in "Lodge's Peerage." Appendix.

Coburg, under their father's superintendence. It was stated, some twenty years ago, and the *Morning Post* has lately repeated the story with an ignorance not to be expected in a paper usually so well informed upon the matters of the Court, that the young Prince Albert, on the death of his mother, then a boy of some twelve years old, was placed for a period under the care of the Duchess of Kent, and that he resided some time at Kensington and Claremont, where it so happened that he was taught by the same masters who instructed the Princess Victoria, and learned his lessons out of the same book, thus laying the foundation of an acquaintance which gradually ripened into a mutual attachment, and eventually resulted in their union. Unfortunately, however, there is no truth in this romantic story, as the Prince never set foot on the shores of England until he accompanied his father and brother on a visit to his aunt, the Duchess of Kent, in the summer of 1836, when they were guests for some weeks at Kensington Palace.

On the remarriage of their father, in 1832, the young princes resumed their studies, which had been broken off for a short interval; and, at the ages of sixteen and seventeen respectively, were

confirmed with much ceremony at Coburg, according to the rites of the Lutheran Church. We have seen a medal, struck by order of the reigning duke, in commemoration of that event. It bears on the obverse portraits of the youthful princes, encircled with a legend of their names; and on the reverse, surrounded by a wreath of oak leaves, the words, "Confirmt dem 12 April, 1835."

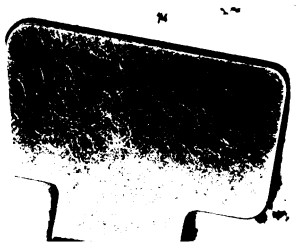
The visit of the then duke and his sons to London in 1836 was not passed in privacy. On the contrary, they were fêted at Windsor and at St. James's by the late King and Queen Adelaide, and by every member of the royal family in England, and were "shown all the lions" by their illustrious hostess and her still more illustrious daughter. Among other public occasions on which the two princes and the Princess Victoria were present together in public was the anniversary of the charity children of the metropolis at St. Paul's, and the subsequent meeting of the friends of the society at the Mansion House, where the royal party were hospitably entertained at luncheon by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. A contemporary account states that the large party of citizens who had the honour of being invited to the luncheon were charmed

with the fresh healthful beauty of the Princess, and with the frank unaffected manner of the princes, her cousins, all three of whom entered freely into conversation with their host and hostess, and the other guests, and expressed themselves highly delighted with the scene that they had just witnessed.

On returning to the Continent at the close of this visit to England, Prince Albert and his brother were placed by the late duke under the charge of their uncle, King Leopold, at Brussels, where a private house was taken for them, in order that they might pursue their studies under an English clergyman, who was engaged as their tutor, who thus spoke of Prince Albert at a time when he could never have anticipated his future destiny: "His attainments are various, and solid too; his abilities are superior; his disposition amiable; his conduct unexceptionable; and, above all, his belief in, and his attachment to, the Protestant religion is sincere." The author of "A Summer in Germany" adds his independent testimony in the following terms: "On our return to the hotel we found there the young hereditary Prince of Saxe Coburg and Gotha, and his brother, the Prince Albert. They are

both very interesting young men, with all the German goodness in their faces and manner. Prince Albert is taller than his brother, and very prepossessing; his handsome face, besides the kind expression which is common to both brothers, being brightened with the greatest animation and intelligence."

In the summer of 1837 the princes were removed to the University of Bonn, on the Rhine, where they were entered as *juris studiosi* (students of law), and Prince Albert was most constant in his attendance on the lectures on classics, mathematics, mental philosophy, political economy, history, and statistical science, while several private tutors attended him at home for his instruction in the ornamental accomplishments of drawing and music, in both of which he was, even then, a great proficient. His companions of his own rank at the University were his brother, Prince Ernest, the Hereditary Duke of Mechlenburgh-Strelitz, the Hereditary Prince of Lippe-Schauenberg, Prince William of Loëwenstein-Wertheim, and others. His tutor was Geheimrath von Florschutz—subsequently Minister at Coburg. He read history under Professor Loebell, and jurisprudence under Professors Walter, Bocking,



and Perthes. He was very studious, very temperate, his only indulgence being athletic exercises, sporting, and the like. The circle with which he kept up intercourse was select, and, indeed, chiefly restricted to the families of the university professors. But, still, among his brother students, the Prince was a great favourite on account of his amiable manners, his powers of general conversation, and the unchallenged propriety of his conduct and the excellence of his character. Whilst a student at Bonn, the Prince gave a convincing proof at once of his happy talent for poetry and of the benevolence of his heart, by publishing for the benefit of the poor a collection of songs which were very agreeably set to music by his brother.

For the following sketch of Prince Albert and his brother at Bonn, we are indebted to the columns of the *Morning Post*:—

"The two young princes of Saxe-Coburg lodged at the house of Dr. Bischof, a medical professor, a modest house near the university, occupying one side of an open piece of ground near the cathedral. The Prince's private tutor was Geheimrath (Privy Councillor) Florschutz, who was subsequently Minister at Coburg. Prince Albert's

character was that of an earnest and painstaking student. A contemporary student of his says that his dinners were ordered from Schmidt's Hotel in Bonn, but were of the most temperate kind; and that, though he and his brother gave costly entertainments to their fellow students, they themselves lived a very frugal and abstemious life. Prince Albert chiefly studied jurisprudence and history. Jurisprudence was taught by Professors Walter (an Ultramontane but a very able man), Bocking, and Perthes; history by Professor Loebell. Music and painting he particularly cultivated in his intervals of leisure. He had learned music when a boy of the well-known Dr. Breidenstein, and was reputed to be a proficient in the divine art even before he entered the university. His skill in painting may be estimated by the fact that a picture of his, the 'Savoyard Minstrel Boy,' painted during his student life, is one of the most prized in the Queen's collection. During his residence at Bonn, Prince Albert cultivated the acquaintance of the greatest philosophers and scholars in the university. His greatest friends were Count Beust and Professor Welcker; but to his great honour he sought the society of the illustrious Schlegel, who thought highly of him,

and his amiable and unassuming manners so endeared him to the doctor, that the professor, who detested 'princelings,' was glad to receive the young Prince Albert. Prince's Albert's chief diversions were athletic exercises and sports of the field, in which he excelled. His attendant on his shooting excursions was one Peter Stamm, who, besides being a guide, was a well-to-do hotel-keeper in a town near Bonn. This worthy old man, long after the Prince had left 'college,' used to cry from joy when any English traveller spoke of his Royal Highness; he would talk of his exploits, his affability, his charity, by the hour, and he would show the visitor three portraits on the walls of his sitting-room—those of the late Duke of Saxe-Coburg, the present duke, and the Prince Albert, the latter being the most prized of all, for eye-witnesses have recorded that the old man shed tears when he pointed it out to them. Prince Albert left college after residing during three academical seasons (terms)—namely, in September, 1838. The people of Bonn were greatly grieved at his departure, for his charities to the poor had been unbounded, and it may be added that he and his elder brother, Duke Ernest, published a volume of poems, with music and illustrations,

during their academical residence, for the benefit of the poor of Bonn. In 1840, as soon as the marriage of his Royal Highness with the Queen of Great Britain was made known, nothing could exceed the joy of the worthy Teutonic professors. On the 28th of January he was admited (in his absence) to the degree of doctor of Laws, and in a most complimentary address which was forwarded to him, signed by all the professors of law and history, he was said to have united 'summæ fortunæ magnitudinem ac gravitatem summâ comitate amabilique morum suavitate et humanitate.' Likewise, one of the professors, said to be the first scholar in Bonn, sent the bridegroom a most astonishing Latin 'Epithalamium,' in which Cytherea is made to reproach the Young Queen of England for her resistance to the influence of Love, then to smite her with the unerring arrow of Cupid, &c."

During the residence of Prince Albert at Bonn the magnificent ceremonial of the coronation of our Most Gracious Queen was solemnized in Westminster Abbey. The reigning Duke of Saxe-Coburg did not fail to be present in order to pay his personal homage of respect to his august niece; but it is worthy of note that neither of the

young princes came over to England on that auspicious occasion, as being a convincing proof that, in spite of the many rumours which had been spread abroad as to the future disposition of the young Queen's heart and hand, there was at that date no serious thought in her mind of allying herself in marriage to the husband whose loss she is now so bitterly deploring. The Duke, her future father-in-law, however, was not allowed to return to the Continent without a special mark of honour at the hands of his Royal niece, who previous to his departure, invested him with the insignia of the Order of the Garter.

In the course of the succeeding winter Prince Albert's studies were sufficiently advanced to permit of his undertaking with advantage a tour in Italy, where His Royal Highness put the finishing strokes to his education in art by his visits of observation to the noble galleries of the South. He was most hospitably received on his way at Munich by the King of Bavaria, and by the various diplomatic ministers resident there, including the late Lord Erskine, the English ambassador. Having visited Florence, Rome, and Naples, at each of which cities he spent some time, and the other chief cities of Italy, Prince Albert returned

to Coburg, paying, *en route*, a short visit to his uncle, Duke Ferdinand, at Vienna. It is said, but we know not with how much of truth, that on his return to Erenberg, he found on the wall of his room, to his astonishment and delight, a picture of Queen Victoria (painted by Chalon, and engraved by Cousins), sent specially as a present to him from Her Majesty.

The young Prince was formally declared of age on completing his twentieth year, when he became possessed of the property bequeathed to him by his deceased mother, consisting of landed estates, with a rental of about 2400*l.* a year. After his formal engagement to our Queen had been announced, the Prince transferred these estates to his brother, subject to certain pensions to several persons, formerly attached to his household. It is desirable to place this fact on record here, since it has been so often ignorantly asserted that, previous to his exalted alliance, the Prince was little more than a pauper, and, at all events, was not possessed of the income of even a private English gentleman.

On the accession of Queen Victoria to the throne of Great Britain, various speculations were afloat as to the probable quarter in which the

youthful Sovereign, then in her nineteenth year, would seek for a matrimonial alliance.* The rumour, which originated in a Belgian paper, that Prince Albert of Saxe Coburg was likely to be selected, was no sooner copied into the English papers than it was scouted as untrue. But a visit of King Leopold to England in 1839, and the subsequent arrival among us of Prince Albert and his elder brother, caused the *quidnuncs* to confess themselves for once at fault.

On the 10th of October, 1839, Prince Albert and his brother arrived in England upon their second visit—that visit which eventuated in such important results both to the Prince and to this country and people. There can be no doubt that on this occasion a mutual passion sprung up between our Queen and her German cousin, such

* A long list of the various royal suitors whose names were put forward at different times as candidates for the hand of Her Majesty will be found in "Anecdotes of the British Queen, by a Lady, 1840." The catalogue occupies sixteen pages of the work, and includes the names of Prince George of Cumberland (now King of Hanover); Prince George (now Duke) of Cambridge; the late Duc d'Orleans; King Leopold (!); the eldest son of the Prince of Orange; the Duke of Brunswick; the Duc de Nemours; the King of Greece; &c. The merit or good luck of having first named the successful candidate for Her Majesty's hand must be ascribed to the Brussels correspondent of the *Morning Post* in the year 1838, two years after Prince Albert's first visit to England, and more than a year before his second visit.

as, to say the least, has but too rarely been the stepping-stone to matrimonial unions in royal circles. The following contemporary narrative of this eventful crisis in the life of the Prince (which we take from an authentic source) will be read with interest at the present moment:—"The Prince, in his turn, played the part of a royal lover, with all the grace peculiar to his house. He never willingly absented himself from the Queen's society and presence, and her every wish was anticipated with the alacrity of an unfeigned attachment. At length her Majesty, having wholly made up her mind as to the issue of this visit, found herself in some measure embarrassed as to the fit and proper means of indicating her preference to the Prince. This was a perplexing task, but the Queen acquitted herself of it with equal delicacy and tact. At one of the palace balls she took occasion to present her bouquet to the Prince at the conclusion of a dance, and the hint was not lost upon the polite and gallant German. His close uniform, buttoned up to the throat, did not admit of his placing the Persian-like gift where it would be most honoured; so he immediately drew his penknife, and cut a slit in his dress in the neighbourhood of his heart, where

he gracefully deposited the happy omen. Again, to announce to the Privy Council her intended union was an easy duty in comparison to that of intimating her wishes to the principal party concerned; and here, too, it is said that our Sovereign Lady displayed unusual presence of mind and female ingenuity. The Prince was expressing the grateful sense which he entertained of his reception in England, and the delight which he had experienced during his stay from the kind attentions of royalty, when the Queen, very naturally and very pointedly, put to him the question upon which their future fates depended: 'If indeed your highness is so much pleased with this country, perhaps you would not object to remaining in it, and making it your home?' No one can doubt the reply." We tell the story as it has been told to us; and it certainly wears every appearance of probability; for thus it is, according to the accounts which come down to us from the perfumed atmosphere of courts and royal circles, that reigning queens are wooed, won, and wedded.

This great and important matter being thus decided upon in its incipient stage, the remainder of the Prince's visit was busily devoted to a consideration of the arrangements necessary for car-

rying it into effect. On the 14th Nov. Prince Albert took his departure from our shores, and on the 23rd of the same month her Majesty made that formal communication of her intended alliance to her Privy Council which diffused such general satisfaction from one end of the empire to the other. "I have caused you to be summoned," said her Majesty, "in order that I may acquaint you with my resolution in a matter which deeply concerns the welfare of my people and the happiness of my future life. It is my intention to ally myself in marriage with Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. Deeply impressed with the solemnity of the engagement which I am about to contract, I have not come to this decision without mature consideration, nor without feeling a strong assurance that, with the blessing of Almighty God, it will at once secure my domestic felicity and serve the interests of my country." The resolution of her Majesty was formally announced to the House of Peers by her Royal uncle, the late Duke of Cambridge, who spoke in the most hearty and enthusiastic terms of the character and antecedents of the youthful Prince who was about to make his home among the people of England, with whom he augured for him a constantly-increasing

popularity. The Duke added, that he spoke thus from personal observation and knowledge; and the subsequent course of events from that day to this has, upon the whole, well borne out the augury. The Hon. G. H. Cavendish, who moved the address in the Lower House, eulogized the Prince as "kind and affable in his demeanour, very winning in his manners, adding the graceful embellishments of literary pursuits to studies suitable to his position." The Duke of Wellington, in his speech upon the announcement of the Royal Duke, drew attention to the fact that all mention of the Prince's religion had been omitted, and at his instance the word "Protestant" was inserted before the Prince's name in the congratulatory address to her Majesty, voted by the Upper House. The intended marriage was also officially announced by Lord John Russell, as the ministerial leader, to the House of Commons, on whom devolved the duty of making an adequate provision for the Royal marriage. Lord Melbourne, who was Premier at the time, proposed a parliamentary grant of £50,000 a year, in order to support the dignity of the Prince in his new capacity as the destined consort of the Queen of England. This proposition, however, did not meet the views of

either the Conservative party or of the extreme Liberals; and by their combination the allowance of the Prince, on the motion of the late honest and eccentric Colonel Sibthorp, was reduced to £30,000—a motion of Mr. Joseph Hume and Mr. William Williams, to lower it still further to £21,000, being rejected by a majority of nearly eight to one in a tolerably full house.*

Shortly before matters had been thus arranged in England, a similar announcement of the intended union was publicly made at Coburg, causing the greatest enthusiasm in every quarter.

"On the morning of the 8th of December (says a contemporary chronicler) the ducal family and Court attended Divine service in state in the chapel of the Castle; and at four o'clock in the afternoon of the same day the Ministers, the Court, the high functionaries, the deputies of

* "The bill of supply for his Royal Highness, observes the *Star*, met with sturdy opposition from two different quarters. Mr. Hume (January 27) moved that, instead of 50,000*l.*, 21,000*l.* a year only should be voted to the Prince, but was defeated by 305 noes to 38 ayes. But Colonel Sibthorp next moved that the sum granted be 30,000*l.* only, and carried the amendment (the only amendment he ever did carry) by 262 ayes to 158 noes, nearly all the Conservative Opposition (including Sir R. Peel and Sir J. Graham) voting with the Colonel, in whose cap this unique success was the only feather, politically speaking, throughout his career."

the states and of the towns of the Duchies of Coburg and Gotha, having been assembled in the throne-room, and the Reigning Duke and Duchess, Prince Albert, Duke Ernest of Würtemberg, and their suite and attendants, having entered and taken their places, the First Minister read aloud the following solemn proclamation:

"'By order of his Highness the Reigning Duke.

"'His Highness the Reigning Duke of Saxe Coburg and Gotha, convinced of the deep interest which all his faithful subjects take in all that concerns the happiness and prosperity of the ducal house, has thought fit to assemble around him the deputies and functionaries, in order to announce to them the approaching marriage of his younger son, the Prince Albert, with her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland.

"'The very excellent and noble qualities of her Majesty are well known, and they have given his Highness the firm conviction that this union will, with Divine aid, secure the happiness of his son; who will henceforth consecrate all his efforts to his new country; but who, even at a distance from his native land, will ever retain for it the deepest sentiments of love and interest.'

"While the Minister was reading this procla-

mation, the cannon from the fortress announced the happy event to the people at large. Their highnesses then received the congratulations of the Court, and everybody seemed to rejoice in the prospect of happiness awaiting the amiable young Prince, who is much and generally beloved."

The following extract from a letter written by a gentleman of high position, dated Coburg, December 20, 1839, will be the most acceptable comment upon the facts that we have recorded:—

"For the last two months the English curiosity in reference to the family, religion, education, &c., of Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, so naturally awakened by an event now no longer doubtful, has given rise to the most ludicrous, the most absurd, and what is more to be regretted, the most false statements that the fertility of the journalists' imagination and the artful designs of the intriguing could suggest. I take the opportunity of making a communication, which may, in some degree, tend to correct these false statements, and which may not be wholly without interest to the English public. Having been honoured in the kindest manner by the notice of the different members of the reigning family during my residence at Gotha, the moment that

I received authentic information of her gracious Majesty's decision, I felt it my duty to hasten to Coburg, and offer my respectful congratulations to the Prince and his family; and never did duty and inclination harmonize more truly, for I am confident that Europe does not contain a prince possessed in a higher degree of all those sterling virtues, those amiable qualities, and brilliant accomplishments, which must infallibly insure the happiness of our amiable Sovereign, and secure to her illustrious Consort the universal love and admiration of Great Britain. On my arrival I was honoured by an invitation to the ducal table, and felt highly gratified in being the first Englishman to present his personal congratulations. The Prince replied in English, in the kindest and most unaffected manner, and, with the greatest delicacy and tact, commenced an animated description of the literary curiosities that are to be found in the ducal library, and made some allusions to his tour in Italy. At dinner I was fortunate enough to be placed near the Prince, who conversed with the greatest ease on various subjects, with some in German, with others in French, and with me in English. I was delighted to hear the flattering manner in which he spoke of England, and of the

pleasure he had experienced during his residence in its capital. Being honoured by several invitations to the castle, the more I saw of the Prince the more I discovered the extensiveness of his acquirements, the solidity of his understanding, and that amiableness of character which has absolutely rendered him the idol of his countrymen, the more I felt the blessing which our Queen has conferred upon the people in selecting a prince so worthy of his high and brilliant destiny.

"On Sunday, December 8th, I was present at the proclamation of the Prince's marriage. About three hundred persons were assembled in the ancient castle of Ehrenberg, from Austria, Prussia, Saxony, Hesse, &c., including deputations from the corporations of Gotha and other towns, who presented addresses of congratulation. I know not when I have seen a more imposing sight. When the minister (Baron de Carlowitz) had read the proclamation, the Duke embraced his son, and the Duchess next imprinted a kiss upon his forehead, while in every eye might be read the heartfelt wish that all the parents' fondest, proudest hopes might be fully realized. More than one hundred and sixty persons partook of the hospitalities of the Duke's table in the

'Riesen Saal,' or 'Giants' Hall,' and a more sumptuous or splendid entertainment could not be imagined. The loud and cordial cheers which the health of England's Queen called forth, and which burst out with an enthusiasm that all the forms of etiquette and courtly ceremony could not restrain, were almost too affecting; and when the band struck up 'God save the Queen,' the tears of joy flowed freely. I must not omit to mention a circumstance characteristic of the Prince. By his order, the people were admitted during the dinner into the 'Riesen Saal,' to see the assembled company. Peasants from the hills, old and young, walked about without the smallest restraint, to their evident enjoyment; and their hearty exclamations, the blessings they invoked on their beloved Prince and his august parents, were a more eloquent and stirring panegyric than volumes could express. To describe the universal attachment of all classes to the Prince were impossible. I have never heard other than the most enthusiastic praise—not one dissenting voice from one end of Thuringia to the other. If I have remarked the personal beauty of the Prince, the general reply has been, 'Ah, yes, he is certainly handsome, but so good; he is truly a

most amiable prince, as good as he is handsome.' Persons attached to his suite and the older members of the court cannot speak of him without tears, and are quite distressed at the thought of his leaving his native land. With respect to the Prince's religion, I myself have seen and heard convincing proofs of his attachment to the doctrines of the Protestant faith, of which his ancestors have ever been the firm supporters. Those who have had the opportunity of knowing the instructors of the Prince will not for an instant credit the absurd and utterly false reports of his attachment to the Roman Catholic Church. The Prince's being confirmed by the Rev. Dr. Geusler, of Coburg, an enlightened divine of the Lutheran Church, and his commonly receiving the Sacrament from that gentleman, are sufficiently convincing proofs to the contrary. The Prince and his illustrious family are far removed from all bigotry, either Catholic or Protestant; and, without any parade or show of religion, attest by their lives and actions that they are, in all essential points, the true followers of their Divine Master. I could, with pleasure, dwell much longer on this subject, but here it would be misplaced. I shall conclude my brief notice by

the expression of a sincere wish that my countrymen may appreciate the Prince's sterling merits as they are here prized.

"On the 28th December the Prince, accompanied by his father, quitted his paternal residence for a short sojourn at Gotha, and as he bade a last adieu to the stately castle of Ehrenberg, the abode of his forefathers, and the happy scene of his infancy, the tenderest emotions of his nature for a moment almost overwhelmed him. A few days prior to his departure a ball was given him by the nobles, at which he was received by twelve young ladies, attired in white, and wearing fresh-gathered roses. The Philosophic Society gave him a serenade, and all classes joined in affectionate expression of sympathy in their young Prince's feelings on this momentous occasion."

On the 15th of January, 1840, Viscount Torrington and the Hon. Colonel Grey sailed from Dover, in the Fearless steam packet, charged with the honourable mission of investing Prince Albert with the insignia of the Garter, and afterwards escorting his Highness and his suite to England, for which purpose they took out with them three of her Majesty's carriages. On the 24th, the investiture took place at Gotha, with imposing

ceremony. The assemblage of witnesses was numerous, comprising the Grand-Ducal family, all the functionaries of the Court and State, the clergy, and the officers from the Prussian and Saxon garrisons of Gotha, Erfurth, Weimar, and Meiningen. After reading a letter from Queen Victoria to the Reigning Grand Duke, and another to Prince Albert, Lord Torrington and Colonel Grey assisted the Grand Duke and the Prince of Leiningen in investing Prince Albert with the several insignia, salvos of artillery being fired in the meanwhile. The splendid garter, which now for the first time encircled his Serene Highness's knee, was a present from the Queen, and had been prepared with extraordinary care by Messrs. Rundell and Bridge. The band was of purple velvet; the motto of the order, the border, and buckle were composed of diamonds set in the most exquisite taste—the whole forming an ornament in the highest degree brilliant and unique. A grand banquet followed the ceremonial, at which toasts were given in honour of Her Britannic Majesty, Prince Albert, and the Grand-Ducal family. On the 25th there was a grand hunt at Tainbach, and on the 28th Prince Albert left Gotha to proceed to England.

Already, on the 16th of the same month, the Queen had opened Parliament in person, and communicated her intended marriage to both the Houses of Parliament in much the same terms that she had used in announcing the auspicious event to the Privy Council, but with the addition of a request that "her faithful Commons" would enable her to provide such an establishment for her future Consort as would appear suitable to the rank of the Prince and the dignity of the Crown." The result of this request we have already laid before our readers. On the 24th of the same month the Prince's allowance was fixed, as we have already stated, at £30,000 a year. On the same day a bill was introduced for the naturalization of his Serene Highness, with a clause enabling her Majesty to grant him, "for and during the term of his natural life," such "place, precedence, and rank as her Majesty shall deem fit and proper, any law, statute, or custom to the contrary notwithstanding." The liberty thus granted to the Queen was strongly objected to by the Duke of Wellington, and the bill was eventually passed unanimously without the clause just quoted. But subsequently to her marriage, as is well known, her Majesty exerted her undoubted

privilege as the fountain of honour, and officially granted to her Consort precedence next to herself. In 1857 she further conferred upon him the title of Prince-Consort, in order to settle in his favour some disputed points as to his Royal Highness's precedence among the sovereigns of the petty states of Germany.

For a full and circumstantial account of the further and more private preparations for the Royal marriage, the alterations made for the occasion in the interior of St. James's Palace and the Chapel Royal, the enormous and costly bride-cakes, the bridesmaids, bridesmen, wedding dresses, wedding presents, and public rejoicings which marked the 10th of February, 1840, we must refer our readers to the Court chronicler to whom we have so often alluded, and they will be found all given at length in a curious and now scarce volume entitled "Anecdotes, Personal Traits, and characteristic Sketches of Victoria I.," published early in 1840, and professing to be compiled by "a lady whose sources of collecting the same are of the highest character,"—a work of which we have largely availed ourselves in the compilation of the present volume. For us it is sufficient to state that soon after mid-day on the

10th of February the happy marriage of our Queen was solemnized before an august assemblage in the Chapel Royal at St. James's, by the late Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by the late Archbishop of York and the late Bishop of London, as Dean of the Chapel Royal (H. R. H. the late Duke of Sussex giving away the bride) and was at the same time announced to the people at large by the pealing of the guns in the Parks and at the Tower.

The day was kept as a public holiday, and the British nation, from John o' Groat's House to the Land's End, were delighted at the example set by their Sovereign to all the Courts of Europe, by contracting a marriage based not on mere political reason and selfish expediency, but upon personal affection and genuine esteem. According to the records of the time there never was such a concourse of people in St. James's Park to see the procession since the visit of the Allied Sovereigns in 1814; and the appearance of the bridegroom seems to have been all that could be desired by the most fastidious of his highborn female critics, for he is described as being "very attractive," charmingly "pensive," "the picture of health," "affable," &c.

Before the close of the year 1840, so highly had the Prince advanced in the good opinion and esteem of the rulers of the land of his adoption, that an Act of Parliament was passed appointing him Regent of Great Britain if the Queen should die before her next lineal descendant and successor should attain the full age of eighteen years; but happily there has not been occasion to call this Act into operation.

It is now all but two-and-twenty years since Her Majesty repeated those solemn words, "I, Victoria, take thee, Albert, to my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forth, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, cherish, and obey, till death do us part;" and sad as is the occasion now, there can be no reasonable doubt that the retrospect of the intervening years has been a most happy one. To say the least, it has been rarely indeed that the even tenor of the life of Royalty has been broken in upon, hitherto, by sickness or by trials. With the exception of the death of the Duchess of Kent, her Royal mother, in March or April last, Her Majesty has never yet been visited by anything like a real affliction. Once, or possibly twice, the Prince has been shot at by some maniac or half-witted

creature; twice, we believe, he has been laid up by a passing attack of cold and fever; once he had a narrow escape of being drowned while skating in the gardens at Buckingham Palace, and so recently as October, 1860, he was thrown from his carriage at Coburg, and severely stunned and bruised. But, on the whole, the Prince has led a charmed life. His marriage was the more popular, in the anticipations of the people, because it gave a hope that the Crown of England would never devolve upon Ernest, the late King of Hanover,* better known here as the Tory Duke of Cumberland, and who, up to the birth of the Princess Royal, stood next in succession to the Crown; and the births of nine children in succession to Her Majesty and the Prince have given, as often as they have

* There can be no doubt that the nation looked forward with the greater joy to the marriage of their Queen, and to the births of tho numerous children with which her union with the Prince just deceased has been blessed, on account of the dislike then felt towards the late King of Hanover, better known in this country as Ernest, Duke of Cumberland, on whom the Crown of England would have devolved, of course, in event of the Queen dying unmarried, or, if she had died even after her marriage, without leaving issue. Accordingly in each and all of the nine children which have resulted from this union, the nation have been glad and proud to perceive a fresh living guarantee that the Crown and throne of England will descend in perpetuity to the children of Victoria, without passing into any collateral line.—*Morning Chronicle.*

occurred, a firmer and surer guarantee that never again shall the English Crown become a mere appanage of Hanover. For the fruitfulness of the union of Her Majesty with the illustrious Prince, whose death we are all lamenting at this moment, we are bound, as a nation and as individuals, to feel and express our gratitude to Heaven; and our present sorrow cannot but be mitigated by thankfulness that the Prince was not taken from amongst us until four princes and five princesses stood between the throne of England and the hopes of a Hanoverian dynasty.

On settling down in this country, the Prince lost no time in showing his good sense by applying himself in earnest to the study of those subjects which could not fail to be matters of interest to a stranger on becoming so nearly allied to the British Throne. To a newly-naturalized Englishman, our system of law and jurisprudence, and the rise and progress of the constitution, with the many cognate questions immediately arising out of those subjects, could scarcely fail to offer an attractive course of study. The Prince resolved forthwith to make himself master of this branch of political science, and accordingly secured the services of the late Mr. Wm. Selwyn, Q.C., who

bore the reputation of being one of the best and soundest jurists of the age, under whose direction he studied constitutional history, reading De Lolme, Blackstone and Hallam, Jeremy Bentham, and Mill, in a regular course. He also devoted his attention to practical agriculture, with which object in view he commenced a variety of scientific experiments on his model farm in the Great Park at Windsor, and became a constant and far from unsuccessful exhibitor at the annual cattle show, formerly in Smithfield, and more recently in Baker-street, as well as at the provincial meetings of the Royal Agricultural Society. Those who visited last week the bazaar in Baker-street must have had this fact brought before their attention with a truthfulness that must now seem almost painful. The effect of his example and encouragement upon the progress of agriculture can scarcely be overrated.

An agricultural contemporary, speaking of the Prince, says :—

"In our own repeated visits to the Royal farms, in recording his successes as an exhibitor, and in noticing the favourable auspices with which he commenced his year of office, we have from time to time testified to all the Prince Consort was

doing for agriculture. His was no merely idle, passing patronage, or casual aid, but it was rather a pursuit he delighted in, and one that he followed out with equal energy and advantage. The most practical man could not go that pleasant round from the Flemish farm to the Norfolk, and so back again by the Home and the Dairy, without learning something wherever he went."

Though the Prince studied political science and the British constitution in theory, he was always wise enough to keep aloof from party politics, and never to interfere in the ordinary course of the administration of our Government, though always ready, as a husband and as a friend, to advise and assist Her Majesty in such matters as did not happen to be beyond his proper sphere. He judged most correctly and most happily that, taking into account his position as the Consort of Royalty, his more fitting *rôle* was to show himself the active and zealous promoter of all those social and sanitary movements which have for their object the moral elevation of the masses; and nothing gave him greater pleasure than to be called upon to lay the first stone, or to inaugurate the opening of such institutions as baths and washhouses for the poor in crowded neighbourhoods, industrial and ragged

schools, and those more ambitious schools of art and design for the middle classes which have sprung up into active existence during the last ten years with such marvellous rapidity, and have been crowned with so much success. Eton, too, was proud to record him among her benefactors, on account of the annual prizes for modern history, which he founded for open competition among her sons, and which will continue to bear his name to the end of our national existence. We are not guilty of the least exaggeration when we say that to the late Prince's fostering care and energy the nation at large owes not a little of the vast improvement which of late years has characterized most objects of ordinary manufacture, in point both of shape and of form; and it is quite certain that the Great Exhibition of 1851 would never have attained the complete success which so eminently distinguished it, had not Prince Albert taken the matter in hand when it was still in embryo, and, discerning in it the elements of an institution of national and even of world-wide utility, helped it forward by a combination of energy, tact, patience, and perseverance, which, to say the least, are more frequently found among our merchant princes than among the well-endowed and highly-favoured circles

of royalty. The very last meeting which we believe the Prince ever presided over was that of the Agricultural Council in November; and, in the ordinary course of events, the culminating point of the Prince's career as the leading patron of British art and science, ought to have been attained during the next few months. Regarded either as one of the arts generally, or more especially as a grand gathering of that Society he had consented to preside over, the Great Exhibition of 1862 was undoubtedly growing under the lamented Prince's design and development. "There is now," observes a writer in a daily paper, "cast over its prospects a settled gloom, from which it can never hope to recover, even if, under the circumstances, the project be proceeded with. The bustle and crowd of a world's fair will scarcely harmonize with the heavy heart of the august lady, in all the fresh, bitter pang of her widowhood."

In the same spirit the Prince watched over the commencement and the gradual progress of the new national museums at South Kensington, which have had such an extended influence upon the general study of art and design, and of the circle of physical sciences. Nor were other institutions of a more prosaic character, as being exclusively

philanthropic in their scope and aim, forgotten by the illustrious Prince who has been thus suddenly removed from among us; and historians will hereafter record with satisfaction that the same Prince who inaugurated the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park felt a pleasure in accompanying his illustrious son, the heir to the British throne, to the opening of a free school for the instruction of the children of poor costermongers, in more than one of the lowest neighbourhoods in this metropolis. So highly did the Prince Consort's knowledge on all scientific subjects stand, that the British Association for the Advancement of Science made him their president in the year 1859, when he delivered at Aberdeen an address which produced a great sensation at the time by its earnest and graceful eloquence, as well for its tact and its display of sound philosophical knowledge. By this speech the Prince worthily upheld the reputation of a chair already made illustrious by a Murchison and a Brougham.

A writer in the *Daily News* gives the following gloomy vaticination respecting the International Exhibition of 1862:—"It would be hard to find a more disheartening task than that of resuming our weekly record of the progress of the Great Exhibition Building at the moment when all England

is mourning the loss of the Prince to whom we are indebted for what we trust is destined to become one of the greatest of our national institutions. It was mainly to the deceased Prince Consort that we owed the success of the Exhibition of 1851, and up to within a fortnight of his sudden and lamented death His Royal Highness was establishing new claims to our gratitude, by promoting with all his energy, ability, and influence, the opening in due time of that Exhibition which will be its decennial successor. When the news of Prince Albert's death first broke upon the town, no one thought of anything but the calamity itself, and the effect which it must have on the happiness of the most illustrious Lady in the land; but yesterday the public mind, a little more tranquillized, reverted from the Prince to the works he had promoted, and, amongst them, the coming International Exhibition held, of course, a prominent place. It is hardly necessary to add that a general hope was expressed that the national calamity which we have just suffered should not be aggravated by any suspension of a work upon which so much depends—perhaps ten years of the industrial progress of a nation, the living, during the ensuing year, of the thousands who have de-

voted their energies and their means to preparations for ministering in various ways to the "world's fair," and a section of London summer trade, which could look for nothing but the Exhibition to sustain it, at a time when it would be impossible to have the usual court or fashionable festivities."

We take the liberty of placing on record here the following extract from a recent number of the *Morning Post*, as it shows the extent to which the country at large is indebted to the Prince just deceased, in regard to both the late and the present Great Exhibitions. The writer says:—

"The illustrious Prince who was the originator of Exhibitions of the Industry of all Nations, has been removed by the hand of death, and the prudent counsels, the sound advice, the encouraging support, and valuable patronage which his Royal Highness had so cheerfully accorded to the Exhibition are no more available. The public, who identified the Prince Consort with the Great Exhibition, know but little of the amount of labour and anxious thought which he devoted to the success of the great undertaking that made the year 1851 memorable as a new starting-point in the industry of the world. It was not merely an illustrious name which the noble president of the

Great Exhibition brought to the aid of the enterprise; nor that his relation to the Sovereign added lustre to the Royal Commission, and gave that confidence to the foreign Powers which was so signally displayed, but the Prince Consort rendered good service to the cause which he undertook by his active exertions in its behalf. The happy combination of high station with great personal qualities was necessary to overcome the innumerable impediments which threatened the success of the great work. At the time when the Prince first decided upon so novel a display as that of the industry of the world, there existed no public enthusiasm to welcome the proposal, and no mechanical means of accomplishing it were then as patent and as obvious as they appear in the present day. The proposition was at first met with cavil, and objections without end were urged against it; but his Royal Highness had obtained sufficient insight into the English character to be able accurately to distinguish between public opinion and artificial clamour. Encouraged by the untiring energy which their illustrious president displayed, the commissioners persevered in their work, and one by one the practical difficulties disappeared before the clear and vigorous intellect which the Prince

brought to bear upon their discussions. This is not the language of mere eulogy, for the records and minutes of the commissioners have placed upon record the undoubted proofs that the origin, the progress, and the completion of the Exhibition of 1851 were mainly due to the large conceptions and wise foresight of the Prince Consort.

"As early as 1848 his Royal Highness submitted to the Government a proposal to establish an exhibition of works of industry in this country, but the members of the Government could not be induced to afford it any of that encouragement which it was sought to obtain. Despairing of obtaining any assistance in this quarter, the Prince, then President of the Society of Arts, took up the question in the following year. Not content, however, with following in the steps of the previous expositions which had been held in Paris, his Royal Highness suggested the happy idea of so extending its range as to include within it the works of industry of all nations. At a meeting held at Buckingham Palace on the 30th of June, 1849, the Prince proposed that the Exhibition should be divided into four sections, 'the first being raw materials and produce illustrative of the natural productions on which human industry

is employed; the second, machinery for agricultural, manufacturing, engineering, and other purposes, and mechanical inventions illustrative of the agents which human ingenuity brings to bear upon the products of nature; the third, manufactures illustrative of the results produced by the operation of human industry upon natural produce; the fourth, sculpture, models, and the plastic art generally, illustrative of the taste and skill displayed in such applications of human industry.'

"The country at large most cordially approved of the conduct of his Royal Highness from the commencement to the end of the undertaking: the council of chairmen of juries awarded him the Council medal 'for the original conception and successful promotion of the idea of the Great Exhibition of 1851;' and a memorial of the great undertaking now stands in the Horticultural Gardens, to record the ability, the wisdom, and the prudence with which the Prince Consort aided in carrying the great idea to its crowning success. At the last closing scene of the Great Exhibition in 1851, after receiving the report of the jurors, the Prince, in his capacity of president of the commission, in taking his final leave of those who

had been associated with him, said, in words which deserve to live in the memory of a nation that now deplores his loss :—

"'I cannot refrain from remarking with heartfelt pleasure the singular harmony which has prevailed amongst the eminent men representing so many material interests—a harmony which cannot end with the event that produced it. Let us receive it as an auspicious omen for the future; and while we return our humble and hearty thanks to Almighty God for the blessing he has vouchsafed to our labours, let us all earnestly pray that that Divine Providence which has so benignantly watched over and shielded this illustration of Nature's productions, conceived by human intellect and fashioned by human skill, may still protect us, and may grant that this interchange of knowledge resulting from the meeting of enlightened people in friendly rivalry may be dispersed far and wide over distant lands, and thus by showing our mutual dependence on each other be a happy means of promoting unity among nations, and peace and goodwill among the various races of mankind.'

"The interest which the Prince Consort evinced in the success of the proposed Exhibition of next

year was not less than its predecessor. His advice has been eagerly sought and cheerfully afforded to those who have been entrusted with the work of carrying it into execution; and a short time since an encouraging speech of the Prince Consort, delivered at the Society of Arts, appeared in this journal. Though taking no part in the management, the Prince has nevertheless in his capacity as one of the Commissioners of the Exhibition of 1851, and, as President of the Royal Horticultural Society, rendered good service, by greatly facilitating the arrangements for the use of the land at Kensington, and of the gardens of the Horticultural Society, for the purposes of the Exhibition. The Prince, too, with his accustomed readiness to promote the cause of art, had kindly consented to send a very large collection of most valuable works of art to the Exhibition—indeed, he was the largest exhibitor in the fine art department, and he was the first to give his name as a guarantor for the funds of the undertaking to the extent of £10,000. The untimely death of his Royal Highness will be felt as an irreparable loss by the commissioners, and will for some time continue to throw a saddening gloom over everything connected with the undertaking."

Since his marriage, the Prince's career has been so intimately mixed up with that of Her Majesty, and the lives of both have been so thoroughly identified with the history of the nation, that to follow the biography of the Prince Consort with the fulness and minuteness of circumstantial detail, it would be necessary either to write a history of the present reign or else to reproduce the dry daily announcements of the Court chronicler as they appear in the papers, and for neither of these have we the requisite space. It is sufficient to state that since he came to England, just twenty-two years ago, he has seldom been absent from the side of his beloved Consort, whom he has accompanied in all her sojourns at Osborne, Windsor, and Balmoral, and on her occasional visits to Dublin, Plymouth, &c., in her various marine excursions, and on each of her visits to France. In 1842 the Queen and Prince paid their first visit to Scotland. In 1843-4 occurred their celebrated visits to King Louis Philippe, at the Chateau d'Eu, and to the King of the Belgians; and on their return home they commenced their tour through the country, visiting Cambridge (where the Prince was made LL.D.), Tamworth, Lichfield, Chatsworth, &c. &c. It ought to be

noted that Prince Albert on his visit to Sir R. Peel, at Drayton Manor, devoted a day to Birmingham, paying the most careful attention to the manufactures of all sorts, examining every detail with great intelligence, and leaving behind him a considerable reputation for scientific attainments. In 1844, we believe, the Prince was alone during a rapid journey to his relatives in Germany, and more recently he went to Berlin without Her Majesty to spend a few days with his daughter, the Princess Royal; but with the above and a few other trifling exceptions, the Court chronicler has seldom had occasion to report that Her Majesty was in one portion of Her dominions and her Consort in another.

For the last few years his Royal Highness, though he had taken no very prominent part in public affairs, was most active in promoting the interests of the Royal Patriotic Fund, over which he presided; of the Wellington College, which mainly through him promises to be one of the noblest schools in England; and of the Horticultural Society, whose present flourishing condition is due to him. These and many other excellent societies, observes a writer, "surely are objects which a Prince might most fittingly support with-

out incurring any objection on the ground of 'Austrian sympathies' or 'Germanizing influence.'"

The speeches which his Royal Highness delivered at intervals were marked by conciseness of language, a liberality of tone, a calm impartiality, a terse, well-studied judicious style, which have always been warmly approved; and a collection of these speeches, published in 1857, at the suggestion of Lord Ashburton, by the Society of Arts, eminently deserves perusal. The liberal sentiments and the shrewd common sense of the illustrious speaker are signally displayed in them, and there is not the slightest tinge of bigotry, affectation, or pedantry. One of the first, if not the first, of his Royal Highness's speeches was delivered on the 18th of May, 1848, on behalf of the Society for Improving the Condition of the Labouring Classes. The Prince took occasion to object to the practice of contrasting the interests of different classes in society—the interests of the poor being in fact identical with those of the rich—and he protested against "interference with labour and employment, or destroying freedom of thought." He spoke well and wisely also at the meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society at

York, in the summer of the same year; and the next year, on laying the foundation-stone of the Great Grimsby Docks, in April, 1849, he emphatically praised the works as one "carried out by private exertions, with private capital, at private risk." In May, 1849, he made a most kindly speech in favour of the "Servants' Benevolent Society," expressing, as one of the public, his deepest interest in the welfare of domestic servants, of whom so many were to be found in their old age in workhouses. At the banquet given by the Lord Mayor Farncombe to the Royal Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851 the Prince spoke at length, and in terms which deserve to be commemorated. He said it was the duty of every educated person closely to watch and study the time in which he lived, in order to accomplish that great end—the realisation of the unity of mankind. He then alluded to science, as being now not confined to a few, but as being the property of all—distributed among all. He hoped that the Exhibition of 1851 would cause men to realise the blessings bestowed on them in this world, and the conviction that they could not be fully realised except by living at peace with all the rest of the world.

This speech produced a great effect, and Lord Derby recorded his testimony that the speaker, since his arrival in this country, had earned the gratitude of all classes, had abstained from interfering in politics, and had used all his energies for the welfare of the nation. At the Lord Mayor of York's return banquet (October 25, 1850) Prince Albert spoke in the most graceful and affecting manner of the death of Sir R. Peel, whose absence was the only alloy to the pleasure he felt in attending the feast. "There is but one alloy to my feelings of satisfaction," he said, "that one is missing from us one who felt so warm an interest in our work, the last act of whose public life was attending a meeting of the commission every member of which admired his sagacity and his business habits." His Royal Highness expressed his high admiration for the character of Sir R. Peel, and his gratitude for that statesman's devotion to the Queen and his friendship for himself. "He was," said the Prince, "Liberal from feeling, Conservative from principle. The difficulties in the way of progress occurred to him first; he cautiously considered them, but when his mind had mastered them his timidity vanished; he embraced Liberal principles thoroughly." He

ended his speech by recording his gratitude to that statesman for his devotion to the Queen and his private friendship for the speaker himself. In 1851 (June 16), Prince Albert made a speech in favour of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, in which the warm eulogiums of King William III., the founder, as the greatest monarch who had ever ruled in England, caused some criticism. It was on this occasion that his Royal Highness solved the internal divisions of the Church, in a phrase declaring that they were of the same nature as disunions in the State, the "conflict of the principle of individual liberty with that of allegiance and submission to the will of the community." At the Mansion House, in 1854, he excited the wrath of the Roman Catholics by his exultation (at a meeting for the Sons of the Clergy) over the fact that when the yoke of "a domineering priesthood" was shaken off at the Reformation, our ancestors found that "the keystone" of the system was "the celibacy of the clergy," which they proceeded to abolish accordingly. It was about this time, during the Crimean War, that the Prince made himself somewhat unpopular by his dogmatical assertion that the "Constitution was on its trial." Generally

speaking, however, his speeches were uncontroversial, and they were universally admired for their eloquence and vigour.

There are one or two events in the married life of her Majesty and the Prince which we may be pardoned for dwelling on more prominently. The first of these is the voyage made by them in the "Fairy" steamer, in August, 1845, up the Rhine to Cologne and Mayence, whence they visited Coburg, and the Castle of Rosenau, the Prince's birthplace. Looking back at that visit, after an interval of sixteen years and more, one cannot but endeavour to imagine the feelings of honest pride with which the Prince must have returned to the scenes of his birth and early childhood, in company with his young wife, the Queen of England, and pointed out to her eager gaze all those beauties of rock and river, of castles and churches, which were so familiar to his eye in childhood and in early manhood, but which he had been more than content to forego for the more homely scenery of Windsor Forest and the banks of the Thames. The whole history of that Royal visit was duly chronicled and abundantly illustrated in the papers at the time, and therefore it is sufficient now to state that the Queen and her illustrious Consort were received everywhere

abroad with the heartiest demonstrations of welcome, and that, after a three weeks' absence and freedom from the cares and troubles attendant upon Royalty, they returned to the shores of England delighted with all that they had seen. It may be interesting to our readers to record here the fact that at Bruhl the late King of Prussia himself proposed the health of the Royal party, in a speech in which he forcibly drew out the unity of the German and the English races, and toasted "Victoria" as a name which, to use his own words, "inspired every German and every British heart with unspeakable delight." How little could the King anticipate, at that time, that a day would come when the heir of his own throne would become allied in marriage to the Princess Royal of England!

Another event which marks an era in the life of the Prince so recently deceased was his election, in February, 1847, to the Chancellorship of the University of Cambridge,* then recently vacated by the death of the Duke of Northumberland.

* By the death of his Royal Highness, the Chancellorship of the University of Cambridge becomes vacant, and the election of a new Chancellor must be held within fourteen days after the vacancy is announced. On the part of many members of the University, a desire prevails to elect the Prince of Wales as successor to his father, but his extreme youth, it is thought, may be a bar to that wish being fulfilled. Amongst other noblemen

On this occasion it will be remembered that the High Church party put forth all their strength to secure the election of the late Earl Powis to that high office, as a reward mainly for his able and successful efforts in getting set aside the legislative enactment by which thenceforth the sees of St. Asaph and Bangor were to have become permanently united and consolidated into a single bishopric, and in agitating for a revival of the active functions of the Anglican Convocation. Lord Powis was a man of high principle and great personal worth, and was deservedly held in general esteem, even beyond the narrow limits of the party with whom he acted; but the popularity of the Prince, who was justly regarded as the type of modern progress and Liberal ideas, was so wide and genuine, that the noble earl was fairly distanced after a close and hard-fought contest, and the Prince found himself installed in one of the

whose names are freely mentioned in connection with the Chancellorship of the University are Lord Palmerston, of St. John's College (M.A., 1806); the Duke of Devonshire, of Trinity College (M.A. and second wrangler in 1829); the Earl of Hardwicke, of Queen's College (LL.D. 1835); the Marquis of Lansdowne, of Trinity College (M.A. 1801, LL.D. 1811); the Earl of Zetland, of Trinity College (M.A. 1815); the Duke of Buccleuch, of St. John's College (M.A. 1837); and Lord Lyndhurst, of Trinity College (B.A. and second wrangler in 1794), at present Lord High Steward of the University.

highest posts of academic distinction.* As Chancellor of the University the Prince Consort always took the deepest interest in every matter, legislative or financial, which affected the fortunes of Cambridge; and it is partly to his influence with Royalty that the issuing of a commission of inquiry into one at least of the two great Universities of the land may be fairly attributed, with the long string of improvements and reforms which that measure brought in its train. Prince Albert was provisionally installed in Buckingham Palace on the 25th March, and assumed his office at the state installation at Cambridge, the Queen being present, July 6, on which occasion the Prince Waldemar of Prussia, Prince Löwenstein, Prince Peter of Oldenburg, the Prince of Saxe-Weimar, and General Sir Harry Smith. received the degree of LL.D., and the poet Wordsworth's Installation Ode was performed.

"As Chancellor of Cambridge," observes the *Morning Star*, "it is only proper to say that His Royal Highness has behaved with singular moderation, prudence, and sagacity. He has never interfered in University matters except for the

* The actual numbers were—for Prince Albert, 953; for Lord Powis, 837—majority, 116.

good of the University, and it was mainly owing to his good sense that Cambridge accepted with more alacrity than Oxford the Government Commission appointed by Lord John Russell, to inquire into the condition of our two great Universities. It may be added here, that his Royal Highness was a warm patron of talent in University men, and that it was through him that several of the best men in Cambridge emerged from academical obscurity—Dr. Graham, Bishop of Chester; Dr. Phillpott, Bishop of Worcester; Professor Lightfoot, &c. &c.; and generally in matters affecting church appointments his influence has always been used on the liberal side—in favour of Mr. Kingsley, Dean Trench, Dean Alford, Dr. Thomson, Dr. Stanley, &c. &c."

In his parental relation it is impossible to speak too highly of the late Prince Consort's character. We have already alluded to the fact that he took great care to imbue the mind of the Prince of Wales with an interest in the well-being of the poor, by accompanying him, while still a boy, to the opening of more than one ragged school. But this is only a small sample of his conduct as a parent. It would be an intrusion upon the inner life of royalty, and in the worst taste, to enter

into detail on such subjects here; but, speaking generally, we may be pardoned for expressing our opinion that his Royal Highness has done very much to prepare the Prince of Wales to appreciate his high responsibilities as the direct heir to the British Crown; that he has discharged this part of his duty in a manner which can only be, at the best, most imperfectly appreciated by the present generation; and that, if the heir apparent hereafter shall be found to realise those bright hopes and expectations with which the nation now regards the commencement of his career, both he and we shall be obliged to own that a very large debt is due to the sound judgment of his illustrious father.

To quote the eloquent language of a contemporary:—

"But the Prince was always seen to most advantage in that particular character which of all others most commends itself to the English heart —the head of a well-regulated English family. There is no question but that the strongest hold which both the Queen and her Royal Consort have had upon the affections of their subjects, rests upon the admirable manner in which they have discharged their duties in this respect; and

by this standard we must mainly measure the loss sustained in Prince Albert's death. He was not merely the Consort of our Queen; he was the husband, counsellor, and guide of a royal English lady; and also the firm and judicious guardian and parent of a young and rising family. . . . In the same way as a father will the Prince Consort's loss be also mainly felt not only by his children, but through them by the nation. Who can tell what pitfalls may not be before the young Princes, who are now coming forward in life, or what contingencies are now preparing, which only a parent's authority as well as advice may be able to counteract; and the errors of princes, be it observed, have not the same results as the errors of private individuals. What Prince Albert's authority would have been can be gathered from the admirable manner in which his children have been brought up. That it should have to be withdrawn just at the present moment is a calamity to us all, as well as to the family of which he was the head."

And again, another writer observes:

"It has been truly said that Prince Albert kept aloof from politics, and, so far as mixing himself up with great political questions and with political

parties, this is correct. Yet, we cannot doubt that in periods of difficulty, and upon questions relating to the welfare of the country, Her Majesty did look to him for assistance and guidance, upon which she set great store, and that it was always given to her own comfort and the well-being of her people. And it would be unnatural were it otherwise. A lady governing a great country is differently placed from a monarch of the other sex. There are seasons when she requires not the aid and advice which a Minister can give, but that which one only can afford who is connected with her by ties of personal affection, and by unity of sympathy and interest. A similar case is furnished by our last lady monarch, Queen Anne. Her consort, Prince George of Denmark, was almost a cipher in the country. Though a kind-hearted, unselfish man, he was a prince of very ordinary capacity; yet after his decease, which, as in the present sad bereavement, occurred first, the Queen never ceased to regret the assistance which his counsel afforded her. Elizabeth, on the other hand, was never married, and, consequently, surrounded herself with favourites, of whom her Ministers were jealous, and whom her people detested.

"Though never mixing in politics since his marriage, the deceased Prince's name and extraction possessed a significance essentially political to all that study the signs of the times. He came of a house which alone of all the German reigning families has granted constitutional privileges to its people without any external pressure, and to a people who not only did not ask for them, but have shown themselves even averse to accepting them. His brother, moreover, the reigning Duke of Saxe-Cobourg Gotha, with a comparatively small territory, and not large political influence, is the head of that great national movement which is now agitating Germany, and which has for its object entire German unity on the broadest liberal basis. He may be considered therefore a scion of the one Protestant German house which keeps up with the progress of the times and advocates constitutional freedom, not from fear of revolution and popular turbulence, but for its own sake. Truly, no more apt helpmate could have been found for a British Queen, because, though an alien by birth, he was thoroughly British in sympathy, and the land of his choice was also the land of his affections. We suspect that every day as it passes on will show afresh what the nation has lost in him."

It will be remembered that in December, 1851, the Prince was subjected to much abuse for his reputed complicity in the dismissal of Lord Palmerston from the office of Foreign Secretary. The ill-feeling against the Prince continued to increase until 1853, when it culminated in a series of the most virulent and discreditable articles in the papers, which at last procured some amount of credence for statements which were either malicious fabrications or childish *gobemoucheries*. Still some dirt stuck. Prince Albert was hissed on his road to the opening of Parliament in 1854; and Lord Aberdeen, Lord Derby, Lord Hardinge, Lord John Russell, Mr. Walpole, and other magnates of party, rose successively in their places in Parliament, and showed, in the clearest manner possible, in answer to the charges, that Prince Albert had a perfect right to sit with her Majesty during her interviews with her Ministers; that he had not corresponded with Continental Governments to the injury of this country; that he had really and truly kept, as much as he could, aloof from all party politics; that he never desired, but, on the contrary, declined to succeed the Duke of Wellington as Commander-in-Chief; that he never overruled any decision of the Commander-

in-Chief, &c. &c. Lord Aberdeen and Lord John Russell were very emphatic in denouncing these calumnies, which were circulated chiefly by the *Morning Advertiser*, and other journals of second-rate reputation; the Prince's popularity returned to him as fresh and as green as if no breath of slander had ever passed upon it.

Our notice of the Prince, thus suddenly cut off in the midst of his career, would scarcely be regarded as complete without adding a list of the appointments held by his Royal Highness, and now rendered vacant by his death. He was invested with the Order of the Garter, as we have stated, at Gotha, immediately before his arrival in England to complete his marriage; he received his commission as a Field Marshal in the army on the 8th February, 1840; he was Colonel of the 11th, or Prince Albert's Own, Hussars, from the 30th of April, 1840, to the 26th April, 1842; Colonel of the Scots Fusilier Guards from April, 1842, to September, 1852; and Colonel-in-Chief of the 60th Rifles from the 16th August, 1850, to September, 1852. The Prince was appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the Rifle Brigade and Colonel of the Grenadier Guards (on the death of the Duke of Wellington) on the 28th

of September, 1852; and was "introduced" as a member of the Privy Council on the 11th of September, 1840. He was appointed Grand Ranger of Windsor Park in 1841; Lord Warden of the Stannaries and Chief Steward of the Duchy of Cornwall in April, 1842; Governor and Constable of Windsor Castle, May, 1843; First and Principal Knight Grand Cross and Acting Great Master of the Order of the Bath, June, 1843; High Steward of Plymouth in June, 1843; Captain-General and Colonel of the Hon. Artillery Company of London, September, 1843; elected Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, 27th February, 1847; High Steward of New Windsor, July, 1850; President of the Zoological Society in July, 1851; Master of the Trinity House, 19th October, 1852; and President of the Horticultural Society in 1857. The Prince was also a Knight of the Orders of the Thistle and of St. Patrick, a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and president or patron of nearly all the principal hospitals and charitable institutions of the kingdom. But of all his titles, the one which he seemed most to have valued was that of the President of

the British Association for the Advancement of Science, to which he was elected in 1859.

It should be mentioned to his credit here, and as a proof that he did not regard his civil offices and posts as sinecures, that during the late Prince's tenure of the Wardenship of the Stannaries, which he administered on behalf of his son, the Prince of Wales (to whom they belong in his capacity of Duke of Cornwall), the revenues of the office were multiplied (we have heard on good authority) as much as threefold, a splendid legacy to the young son whom he leaves behind, both from its intrinsic worth and the example which it conveys. As Master of the Trinity House, too, his Royal Highness paid the greatest attention to all those questions of pilotage, lighthouses, &c., which come before that body, and he was ever ready to bring his own scientific knowledge and practical common sense to bear upon whatever business was placed before him. Altogether, it will be long indeed before the public will have forgotten the well-known features of his frank and manly face—a face which even the fair sex were agreed in pronouncing decidedly handsome—with which of late years they have been so familiar through his constant appearance at public meetings and on other occasions.

The *Morning Herald* (Dec. 16) says:—

"It must not be supposed that most of these posts we have enumerated were sinecures. The Prince Consort was indefatigable as a man of business. There are those whose duties have called them to the Vauxhall-road or towards Paddington in early morning, who can testify to passing often and often a private carriage containing the well-known face driving townwards on some business connected with the Stannaries or the Duchy of Cornwall, or some of the multifarious associations to which he lent the assistance of his name and industry; and so common were the paragraphs in the *Court Circular* announcing that his Royal Highness 'arrived in town from Windsor and transacted business' at this or that office, and then returned again, that they almost at last ceased to excite even passing attention."

CHAPTER III.

THE PRINCE'S LAST ILLNESS AND DEATH.

When Her Majesty and the Court returned to Windsor from Scotland, at the end of October last, it was noticed that H.R.H. the Prince Consort had come back in less than his accustomed health and vigour, but, still, he did not ail in such a degree as to excite even a suspicion that there was cause for anxiety. The immediate cause of his illness dates, however, from his visit to the Prince of Wales at Cambridge, about a month before his death, when he went out shooting, got wet through, and, it is said, was imprudent enough to sit in his wet clothes. The private apartments and corridors at Windsor Castle are kept at a temperature of about 60°, and hence the Prince took with him to Cambridge a susceptibility to cold which rendered any long exposure imprudent, if not dangerous. Still he returned to the Castle and followed his usual daily avocations.

About a fortnight afterwards the Queen and Prince Consort reviewed the Eton College Volunteer Rifle Corps. This was the last occasion upon which the latter was seen in public. The rain fell fast during the ceremony, and the Prince was seized on the ground with pains in the back, resembling an attack of lumbago. He became feverish, and complained of pains in his limbs, and confinement to his room was ordered. But though the Prince was confined to his room in the Castle for some days, and every precaution was then taken, still no serious thoughts of anything more than a passing malady were for a moment entertained. People in general were not even aware that the Prince was precluded from attending to his ordinary routine business, until it was announced by the general press in the *Court Circular* of Sunday, the 8th inst., which stated:—

"His Royal Highness the Prince Consort has been confined to his apartments for the last week, suffering from a feverish cold, with pains in the limbs. Within the last two days the feverish symptoms have rather increased, and are likely to continue for some time longer, but there are no unfavourable symptoms. The party which had been invited by Her Majesty's command to

assemble at Windsor Castle on Monday has been countermanded."

His Royal Highness's name had certainly been for some days omitted in the *Circular*, but that was probably not noticed by many loyal subjects, particularly as all else went on much as usual within the Castle. It was not till Wednesday, the 11th, that the first bulletin was issued, but both that and the one issued on the following day were confident in their tone, and gave no serious ground of alarm to the world in general. The bulletin of Friday, the 13th inst., which was only known through the daily papers of Saturday, caused great anxiety and alarm, and although on Saturday, the last day of the Prince's life, reports, oscillating strangely between the issues of life and death, were published, their import was only known where mid-day editions of the papers, or the electric wires, carried them; and then within a few hours the sad news that the Prince had breathed his last was speeding far and wide along the same wires, while the solemn tones of the great bell of St. Paul's—the Royal death-knell—were telling the citizens of England's metropolis of the irreparable loss of their Queen and country. With such startling rapidity of a thunder-clap did this melan-

choly event come upon the Royal family and the nation at large.

The following ominous article in the leading journal of the day on Saturday morning, brought the real danger of the Prince's case to some extent before the public; though it was still hoped that, as such illnesses have often before attacked and yet not cut off, the valuable life of the Consort of our Queen might yet be spared :—

"We feel certain that when the Bulletin of to-day* reaches them, the public will join us in expressing the deepest sympathy with the Prince Consort and with the Queen. For some days his Royal Highness has been suffering severely from

* The bulletin ran as follows :—

Windsor Castle, Dec. 13.

"His Royal Highness the Prince Consort passed a restless night, and the symptoms have assumed an unfavourable character during the day.

"JAMES CLARK, M.D.
"HENRY HOLLAND, M.D.
"THOMAS WATSON, M.D.
"WILLIAM JENNER, M.D.

"Windsor Castle, Dec. 13."

It was headed, "Serious Illness of the Prince Consort," and was followed by an announcement that between one and two o'clock this (Saturday) morning his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales had left the South Western Railway terminus by special train; a message having been received by the Prince at Cambridge that his presence was required at Windsor Castle.

an attack of gastric fever, and is at present much weakened by the disorder. It need not be said that the best medical skill has been called to his aid, and we hope it will be in our power shortly to announce an improvement in the state of the Royal patient. In the meantime, we are sure that both he and Her Majesty will receive the heartfelt sympathy of all her subjects. The natural anxiety which she feels, they can, of course, do nothing to alleviate, but every feeling of esteem and affection which her long and benignant reign has implanted in her people will be called forth on this occasion.

"For more than twenty years the Prince Consort has been the guide and protector of the Queen, to a degree that is rarely found even in ordinary life, where the husband is both in law and reality the guardian of the wife. During all this period the Prince has devoted the powers of a singularly acute and well-stored mind to diminishing the cares of his Consort, by giving her the advice which no one else could have so effectually tendered her. When we consider that almost all Her Majesty's public life has been passed under his guidance, and that by his influence her steps have been directed in that path of constitutional conduct which has strengthened her Throne and banished political

discontent from every part of this great Empire, we may well join in Her Majesty's distress and anxieties. It is at such a time that we feel how high a position the Prince has taken in this country, and how much he has become one of ourselves. To the great body of the public he has always been present as the zealous and able leader in every useful work, while those who have been concerned in the administration of affairs know what judgment, acuteness, and scientific knowledge the Prince brought to bear on every subject on which he was consulted. At the present crisis even the temporary loss of his services is a misfortune for the country.

"It is only within the last twenty-four hours that the disease of his Royal Highness has taken its present severe form. We trust that the unfavourable symptoms will pass away, and that the disease will yield to the skill of the eminent physicians by whom the Prince is surrounded. The fever which has attacked him is a wearying and weakening malady, but it is well understood, and the treatment is in most cases effectual. The Prince has on his side youth and strength, an unimpaired constitution, and the ablest advice that science can give, and we hope shortly to be able to publish a more cheerful Bulletin than that of to-day."

The announcement published in the third edition of the same journal on Saturday, that a slight change for the better had taken place during the night and early morning in the illustrious patient's condition was welcomed as a great relief; but this improvement—though it had almost justified the strong hopes which were entertained for his recovery—was but a precursor of the fatal issue—one of those expiring efforts which so often affords but delusive hopes to the attendants of the bed of death. Soon afterwards a relapse came on, and ere the sun, whose brilliancy that day had seemed to augur hope, had shed its last rays on Windsor's height, it became evident that life was only a question of an hour more or less. About 4 o'clock the bulletin was issued, which stated that the patient was then in a most critical condition, and it appears that fever of the typhoid type then set in, and the Prince sank with alarming rapidity. Stimulants failed to check the increase of weakness, and the fatal termination was so clearly foreseen that even before 9 o'clock on Saturday evening a telegram was forwarded from Windsor to the City, stating that the Prince Consort was then dying fast. The youth, strength, and unimpaired constitution of his Royal Highness had already succumbed to the

wearying and weakening malady of the previous week, and quietly and without suffering continued slowly to sink, so slowly that the wrists were pulseless long before the last moment had arrived, when at a few minutes before 11 he ceased to breathe, and all was over.

We give the bulletins complete in their order.

On Wednesday* the first bulletin stated :—

"His Royal Highness the Prince Consort is suffering from fever, unattended by unfavourable

* The *Medical Times and Gazette* of Saturday, December 14, makes the following remarks upon the bulletin of the health of the Prince Consort which was issued from Windsor Castle on Wednesday :—"From the above statement our readers will learn that H.R.H. the Prince Consort is suffering from a disease popularly known by as many names as it has forms. For nervous fever, gastric fever, intestinal fever, low fever, continued fever, are all essentially the same disease. An epidemic of this disease, it may be remembered, affected Windsor some two or three years ago. The earlier symptoms of the disease are, in very many cases, those of a feverish cold, and the first information of the Prince's illness the public had was from a notice in the *Court Circular*, to the effect that he was suffering from such an attack ; then we were informed that the feverish attack continued, and was considered to be likely to last some time longer. From these two notices the nature of the illness was pretty clear to the medical profession. Sir James Clark, Dr. Jenner, and Mr. Brown of Windsor, have been in constant attendance on the Prince for some time, and either Sir James or Dr. Jenner have always been in the Castle. On Monday last, Sir Henry Holland and Dr. Watson were joined in consultation with Sir James Clark and Dr. Jenner."

It is satisfactory to know that the Prince has the advantage of Dr. Jenner's care ; for there is no living physician who has en-

symptoms, but likely, from its nature, to continue for some time.

"James Clark, M.D.
"Henry Holland, M.D.
"Thomas Watson, M.D.
"William Jenner, M.D.

"Windsor Castle, Dec. 11, 1861."

On the following day it was announced:—

"His Royal Highness the Prince Consort has passed a quiet night. The symptoms have undergone little change.

"James Clark, M.D.
"Thomas Watson, M.D.
"William Jenner, M.D.

"Windsor Castle, Dec. 12."

On Friday the symptoms took a more serious form, as was stated in the following bulletin of that day:—

"His Royal Highness the Prince Consort passed

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joyed a larger experience of fever in general, or to whom the profession are so much indebted for their present knowledge of its various forms, and especially of the characters which distinguish the precise form of fever under which the Prince is now suffering from the dreaded typhus.

a restless night, and the symptoms have assumed an unfavourable character during the day.

"JAMES CLARK, M.D.
"HENRY HOLLAND, M.D.
"THOMAS WATSON, M.D.
"WILLIAM JENNER, M.D.

"Windsor Castle, Dec. 13."

On Saturday morning the following bulletin was issued:—

"His Royal Highness the Prince Consort has had a quieter night, and there is some mitigation of the severity of the symptoms.

"JAMES CLARK, M.D.
"HENRY HOLLAND, M.D.
"THOMAS WATSON, M.D.
"WILLIAM JENNER, M.D.

"Windsor Castle, Saturday, 9 a.m., Dec. 14."

A telegram was despatched at 10.40 a.m. of the state of his Royal Highness:—

"Windsor Castle, Dec. 14.

"There is a slight change for the better in the Prince this morning."

In the afternoon the following bulletin was issued:—

"Windsor Castle, Dec. 14, 4.30 p.m.

"His Royal Highness the Prince Consort is in a most critical state.

"JAMES CLARK, M.D.
"HENRY HOLLAND, M.D.
"THOMAS WATSON, M.D.
"WILLIAM JENNER, M.D."

The bulletin announcing the decease of the Prince Consort was as follows:—

"Windsor Castle, Saturday Night, Dec. 14.

"His Royal Highness the Prince Consort became rapidly weaker during the evening, and expired without suffering at ten minutes before eleven o'clock.

"JAMES CLARK, M.D.
"HENRY HOLLAND, M.D.
"THOMAS WATSON, M.D.
"WILLIAM JENNER, M.D."

A special service was held at the parish church of Windsor, on Saturday afternoon, on the announcement of the alarming condition of the Prince, and a large congregation assembled at so short a notice to offer up their heart felt prayers to the Almighty Disposer of Life and Death in behalf of him who was lying so near them on the

bed of sickness, and whose spirit was to leave this world ere the morrow's bells should call them again within that House of Prayer.

The contrast of the scene at Windsor and the streets in London, is thus dwelt upon by one of the journals:—

"On Saturday night last, at an hour when the shops in the metropolis had hardly closed, when the theatres were delighting thousands of pleasure seekers, when the markets were thronged with humble buyers seeking to provide for their Sunday requirements, when the foot-passengers yet lingered in the half-emptied streets allured by the soft air of a calm, clear evening, a family in which the whole interests of this great nation is centered were assembled, less than five-and-twenty miles away, in the Royal residence at Windsor, in the deepest affliction around the death-bed of a beloved husband and father. In the prime of life, without —so to speak—a longer warning than that of forty-eight hours, Prince Albert, the Consort of our Queen, the parent of our future Monarch, has been stricken down by a short but malignant disorder."

The official notifications of his Royal Highness's decease were published in the following forms.

"Whitehall, Dec. 15, 1861.

"On Saturday night, the 14th instant, at ten minutes before eleven o'clock, his Royal Highness the Prince Consort departed this life, at Windsor Castle, to the inexpressible grief of Her Majesty and of all the Royal family.

"The Queen, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, their Royal Highnesses the Princess Alice and the Princess Helena, and their Serene Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Leiningen, were all present when his Highness expired.

"The death of this Illustrious Prince will be deeply mourned by all Her Majesty's faithful and attached subjects as an irreparable loss to Her Majesty, the Royal Family, and the Nation."

The Lord Mayor of London received the following message:

"Whitehall, Dec. 15.

"My Lord,—It is with the greatest concern that I inform your lordship of the death of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort, which took place at Windsor Castle last night at ten minutes to eleven o'clock, to the inexpressible grief of Her Majesty and the Royal family.

"I request your lordship will give directions for tolling the great bell of St. Paul's Cathedral.

"I have the honour to be your lordship's most obedient servant,

(Signed) "G. GREY.

"To the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London."

The Lord Mayor had anticipated the wish of Sir George Grey. On the previous night, about 20 minutes to twelve, he received the subjoined telegram from Sir Charles Phipps:—"His Royal Highness the Prince Consort expired tranquilly at ten minutes to eleven this night. Windsor Castle, Dec. 14." On the receipt of this sad news the Lord Mayor immediately communicated it to Dr. Milman, the Dean of St. Paul's, with a request that the great bell of the Cathedral, which is never used except on the death of a member of the Royal family, might be tolled. Shortly after midnight the bell was booming the intelligence over the metropolis far and near, and continued to do so for two hours.

If anything can soothe the last hours of the dying more than another, it is surely the sight of those nearest and dearest, and the thought that not a single enemy will be left behind; and in this way was the faithful husband, and good father, so lately departed, most happily blessed. Though all his children could not be near him, the Prince in

his last hours, and indeed throughout his illness, was tenderly and devotedly watched by the Queen and the Princess Alice. They sat up with him on Friday night, having taken their places by his bedside soon after eight o'clock, when his state had become critical. The Prince of Wales, having been summoned by telegraph, arrived in the sad stillness of a dark winter's morning, and joined his mother and sister in their mournful watch. From that time they remained with the sufferer until he was no more. It is said that the Queen had to summon all her strength to bear the closing agony of the death scene, but that she supported herself nobly, and when the first passionate burst of grief was over, called her children around her, and with a calmness which gives proof of great natural energy, addressed them in solemn and affectionate terms, which may be considered as indicating the intentions of a Sovereign who feels that the interests of a great nation depend on her firmness. Her Majesty declared to her family that, though she felt crushed by the loss of one who had been her companion through life, she knew how much was expected of her, and she accordingly called on her children to give her their assistance, in order that she might do her duty to

them and the country. That Her Majesty may be blessed with strength to fulfil her noble intention, and that many years of peace and cheerfulness may alleviate the thought of her heavy loss, while she shares the happiness of her children, and feels the support they may afford her continually increasing, is the earnest prayer of all her subjects.

The Princess Alice, while feeling her own loss most bitterly, afforded great consolation to her widowed mother, and it is said that she of her own accord forwarded the message which summoned the Prince of Wales to the Castle. Of the devotion and strength of mind shown by her all through these trying scenes it is impossible to speak too highly.

Six of the Royal children were at home, and were admitted in the course of the evening, when all earthly hope had fled, to take a last farewell of their beloved father. The Crown Princess of Prussia (Princess Royal), who is at Berlin, was prevented from obeying her desire to receive a parent's dying breath on account of her recent indisposition, and approaching accouchement; and even had it been otherwise, the death of the Prince followed too soon on the discovery of his danger for such a journey to have availed her.

Prince Alfred is serving on board his ship on the other side of the Atlantic; and the younger Prince Leopold had only recently left England to spend the winter in the milder climate of Cannes in the South of France.

The Duke of Cambridge and the following gentlemen connected with the Court were present at the Prince's dissolution:—General Bruce, Sir Charles Phipps, General Grey, General Bentinck, Lord Alfred Paget, Major Du Plat, General Seymour, Colonel Elphinstone, and the Dean of Windsor.

Many facts are mentioned by different journals, for the correctness of which we cannot vouch. We read in one paper—"His Royal Highness is believed to have entertained as early as Wednesday, the 11th inst., a melancholy conviction that his end was at hand. This was when he was removed from his usual apartment to that known as the King's Room, in which two Kings of England—George IV. and William IV.—have died: and it seems that the Prince, remembering its associations, dwelt upon them sadly. Such forebodings are often narrated of the dead; but we should remember that sickly fancies will find a home in sickly frames, and that it is no uncommon thing for invalids to prophesy their

speedy death, and yet to stand upright again in perfect healthfulness."

The recent death of his relative the King of Portugal from a similar disorder is understood also to have had an unfortunate influence upon him, and may possibly have assisted the progress of the malady.

One account says that on Saturday evening, at ten o'clock, General Biddulph, master of the household, entered the Prince's chamber. The Prince did not know him. A state of coma had supervened, which continued until death; and in about an hour the sufferer ceased to breathe—but we also learn that the patient was calm and collected, recognising the Queen to the last, and that a short time before his death he addressed farewell to the several persons around him in the language of their native countries—English, French, and German.

When the improvement took place on Saturday, at midday, it was agreed by the medical men that if the patient could be carried over one more night his life would in all probability be saved. But the sudden failure of vital power which occurred in the afternoon frustrated these hopes. Congestion of the lungs, the result of complete exhaustion, set in, the Prince's breathing became continually shorter

and feebler, and he expired without pain at a few minutes before eleven o'clock. If we may believe the published reports, the features of the corpse appear to have assumed even more than the usual pallor of death. It is said that the Prince's countenance, so composed and statuesque in expression when life was there, was wonderfully calm, placid, and peaceful in death. It was as if the figure had been suddenly transmuted into the whitest alabaster. Of course the question—uppermost thought—in every one's mind on hearing the sad news was, "How will the Queen bear it?" Happily anxiety was speedily allayed by the following bulletins of Sunday and Monday, the 15th and 16th inst., which were forwarded to the journals, and posted at Buckingham Palace, whither the aristocracy then in town flocked in great numbers to inquire after their sovereign:—

"Windsor Castle, Sunday Noon, Dec. 15.

"The Queen, although overwhelmed with grief, bears her bereavement with calmness, and has not suffered in health.

"James Clark, M.D.
Henry Holland, M.D.
Thomas Watson, M.D.
William Jenner, M.D."

"Windsor Castle, Monday, Dec. 16, 11 A.M.

"The Queen has had some quiet sleep during the night, and remains as calm as under her affliction can be expected."

These were followed by similar bulletins for several successive days.

It is said that in answer to some one who spoke to her feelingly of resignation, her Majesty replied, through her tears, "I suppose I must not fret too much, for many poor women have to go through the same trials." And it is evident that her Majesty was enabled to bear her sad trial with a Christian's fortitude, and a Christian's resignation.

A telegram was forwarded from Windsor Castle immediately after the death of his Royal Highness to the Emperor and Empress of the French at Paris, who, during the day, had made several inquiries, through the telegraph, respecting the state of the Prince's health; as also to the Emperor of Austria, the Duke of Saxe Coburg, and the King and Crown Prince of Prussia, who had also made repeated inquiries.

The state of feeling in the Royal Borough of Windsor, where the Prince, with the Royal family in general, was so highly beloved and respected, can hardly be described, as the fact that the hours

of the Prince were numbered was gradually forcing itself on the minds of the inhabitants. Sorrow was visibly present, and as soon as the Palace once more became the abode of Death, the town assumed a most mournful aspect. "The shops," writes a local journal, "are partly closed, and there is not a peasant's cottage near the blinds of which are not closely drawn. Every one seems to regard the melancholy death of his Royal Highness as a personal loss. The musical service has been discontinued at the Chapel Royal of St. George, and the Scots Fusilier Guards and the Life Guards attended the military church with their bands, without musical instruments." A report at one time prevailed in London that recently two or three cases of typhoid fever had occurred at the Castle, and that before the illness of the Prince Consort it had been intended to remove the Court to Osborne on that account, but there appears in reality to be no substantial ground for such a statement, but that, on the contrary, the Queen's household have been lately in the enjoyment of good health.

The same local paper continues :—"In all directions, in and about the precincts of the Castle, one encounters some sad reminder of the lamented Prince's last days of health and strength. His

pack of harriers had their last run on Friday, although of course he was not in the field. The mere circumstance, however, of the meet being allowed to come off adds one more proof in support of the statement that Prince Albert, the day before that of his death, was not supposed to be in serious danger. It also helps to contradict a report that his Royal Highness endured agonising pains for some time previous to his decease. Had this been the truth, we may be fully assured that the Queen and the Royal children would not have absented themselves, for but one half hour, from the Castle.

Among the earliest visitors at the Castle after the announcement of the Prince's death were H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge; H.R.H. the Duchess and Princess Mary of Cambridge; his Serene Highness the Prince of Leiningen; the Duc de Nemours; and, in the course of the week, the Royal circle of mourners was joined by their Majesties the King of the Belgians and the King of Hanover, her Serene Highness the Princess Hohenlohe, and the reigning Duke of Saxe Coburg, the late Prince's only brother. In her privacy, the Queen was much consoled by the presence of the Duchess of Wellington and of the Dowager Duchess of Sutherland, both of whom remained for several days with their

Royal Mistress, administering to her such consolation as it was in the power of earthly friends to bestow.

The Queen herself had arranged to leave Windsor for Osborne on Monday, the 16th instant, but her Majesty's departure was delayed till Thursday by her unwillingness to leave the spot so consecrated in her tenderest affections by the death of her Royal Consort.

Orders for Court and General Mourning were published in a Supplement to the *London Gazette Extraordinary*, as follows:—

"Lord Chamberlain's Office, Dec. 16.

"Orders for the Court to go into mourning for his late Royal Highness the Prince Consort:

"The ladies attending Court to wear black woollen stuffs, trimmed with crape, plain linen, black shoes and gloves, and crape fans.

"The gentlemen attending Court to wear black cloth, plain linen, crape hatbands, and black swords and buckles.

"The mourning to commence from the date of this order.

"College of Arms, Dec. 16.

"Deputy Earl Marshal's order for a general mourning for his late Royal Highness the Prince Consort:

"In pursuance of her Majesty's commands, this is to give public notice, that upon the melancholy occasion of the death of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort, it is expected that all persons do forthwith put themselves into decent mourning.

"EDWARD G. F. HOWARD, D.E.M."

The following General Orders for the mourning for the Army and Navy appeared in the Supplement to the *London Gazette* of Tuesday, the 17th :

GENERAL ORDER—No. 800.

"Horse Guards, Dec. 18, 1861.

"The General Commanding-in-Chief has received her Majesty's commands to direct, on the present melancholy occasion of the death of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort, that the officers of the army be required to wear, when in uniform, black crape over the ornamental part of the cap or hat, over the sword-knot, and over the left arm, with black gloves, and a black crape scarf over the sash.

"The drums are to be covered with black, and black crape is to be hung from the head of the colour-staff of the infantry, and from the standard-staff of cavalry.

"When officers appear at Court in their uni-

forms, they are to wear black crape over the ornamental part of the cap or hat, over the sword-knot, and on the left arm; with black gloves, and a black crape scarf over the sash.

By command of his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge.

"JAMES YORKE SCARLETT,
Adjutant-General."

"Admiralty, Dec. 18, 1861.

"The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have received her Majesty's commands to direct, on the present melancholy occasion of the death of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort, that the officers of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines be required to wear, when in uniform, black crape over the ornamental part of the cap or hat, over the sword-knot, and on the left arm, with black gloves; and the officers of Royal Marines, in addition, a black crape scarf over the sash.

"The drums of the Royal Marines are to be covered with black, and black crape is to be hung at the head of the Divisional Colour-Staff.

"When officers of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines appear at Court, in their uniforms, they are to wear black crape over the ornamental part

of the cap or hat, over the sword-knot, and on the left arm, with black gloves, and officers of Royal Marines, in addition, a black crape scarf over the sash.

"By command of their Lordships,

"C. PAGET."

Such was the state of public feeling, that no doubt for a moment can be entertained but that an outward manifestation of sympathy would have been made by the nation in general, even had not the above order appeared.

The Lord Chamberlain proceeded to Windsor Castle as early as possible to receive the necessary commands in regard to the funeral, which was fixed to take place on Monday the 23rd instant, in as private and unostentatious a manner as is consistent with the state of the deceased, and in accordance with his expressed wishes. It was at first believed that the funeral would be delayed for three weeks, but the earlier time was eventually fixed from a well-considered idea that, by delaying the day of burial, the mental wound which the Queen has sustained would be kept open, and the first poignancy of suffering needlessly prolonged. "The loss itself," writes one journal, "overwhelming as it must be, is accompanied by such incentives to sorrow as arise from continual thoughts of the

unburied dead; and this will naturally affect younger minds in a yet greater degree. As it is, her Majesty has had to witness the extreme grief of her children, and has thus experienced a very heavy addition to her own trouble. We can therefore sympathize most heartily with any purpose tending to alleviate this unspeakable pain."

It was now settled that his late Royal Highness should be buried in the Royal vault in the Chapel Royal of St. George, and the keys of the chapel were handed over to the Lord Chamberlain after the performance of Divine service the same day. Workmen immediately commenced removing the pavement which covers the entrance to the Royal vault, and preparations were made towards the erection of the usual platform in the aisle and nave, to be covered with black cloth, Divine service being held in the library belonging to the dean and canons.

During Tuesday the inner shell and leaden coffin which enclose the remains of the Prince Consort were forwarded to Windsor. According to custom, the body is to be interred in four coffins, the inner one or shell being of polished mahogany cased outside with lead, then an outer, plain, but very massive coffin of mahogany; over all comes the State

coffin or case, of crimson velvet and with massive silver gilt ornaments.

On the same evening the inner shell and outer lead case, containing the remains of the late Prince, were sealed down by the officers of the Board of Works. On the leaden coffin is a massive silver plate, with the following inscription:—

"Depositum
Illustrissimi et Celsissimi Alberti,
Principis Consortis,
Ducis Saxoniæ,
de Saxe-Coburg et Gotha Principis,
Nobilissimi Ordinis Periscelidis Equitis,
Augustissimæ et Potentissimæ Victoriæ Reginæ
Conjugis percarissimi,
Obiit die decimo quarto Decembris, MDCCCLXI.
Anno ætatis suæ XLIII."

We read the following in the *Times* of Wednesday, December 18th:—

"The custom, which remained in force up to the burial of William IV., of interring members of the Royal family by torchlight, has for many years been discontinued, and will not be resumed on this melancholy occasion. The funeral will take place on Monday next, the 23rd instant, and at about the same hour of the day as when the Duchess of Kent was buried,—between 11 and 12 o'clock in the forenoon. In accordance with the custom usually followed of late years, the funeral will not

be a state one, nor will the remains of his Royal Highness lie in state. All these details, however, have been entrusted to Messrs. Banting, who have for so many years conducted the royal and public funerals in this country. But, few and simple as are the rites which mark these solemn occasions, a great amount of preparation is necessary beforehand. St. George's Chapel, Windsor, where the interment will take place, has to be draped and carpeted with black, the royal vault to be opened, and time allowed for the arrival of the representatives of foreign courts who will be deputed to attend on this occasion. All these arrangements have been carefully considered, and the shortest possible time in which they can be completed is by the date we have mentioned. At the funeral his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will act as chief mourner, supported by the Duke of Cambridge and by the Crown Prince of Prussia. The remains will be laid in the royal vault. There are two vaults beneath St. George's Chapel,—the Gloucester and the royal vault. The former was finally built up after the interment of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester, the last member of that branch of the House of Hanover. The royal vault is kept apart exclusively for the

coffins of the immediate members of the reigning family. Three gates close the entrance to this final resting-place of departed royalty, the keys of which are kept by the Sovereign, the Lord Chamberlain, and the Dean of the Chapels Royal. Except for the burial of the Queen Dowager, who was laid by the side of her royal husband, this vault has not been opened since the death of William IV., and the descriptions which were put forth by some of our contemporaries as to the place in which the coffin of the Duchess of Kent was temporarily deposited in this mausoleum were purely imaginary. The royal vault was never opened on that occasion at all, and the coffin only remained at the entrance to the first gate till the mausoleum at Frogmore was completed.

"The outer state coffin will be an exceedingly rich and elaborate case. At the head will be fastened a massive silver gilt crown in high relief. This is the crown the Prince was entitled to bear as Prince Consort, and much resembles that of the Imperial House of Austria. In the centre of the coffin will be another massive silver gilt plate, with the inscription we have already given. At the foot will be the Star and insignia of the Garter, also in silver gilt. On the coffin, during and after

the interment, two heraldic crowns will be laid—that of his Royal Highness as Prince Consort and his crown as Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

"At the Chapel almost precisely the same arrangements have been made as at the burials of the recently deceased members of the Royal Family. The interior of the Chapel will be hung and carpeted over with black cloth. The body will be received by the clergy at the door, placed at once upon the bier, and wheeled slowly up till it is placed on the platform, worked by machinery, by which it is lowered to the royal vault at the proper period of the service. The place which it will occupy in the vault has not yet been assigned. The bodies of deceased monarchs, cased in coffins of purple velvet, are laid side by side on raised marble slabs in the centre of the vault; their consorts and the other members of the royal family are laid, in their crimson velvet coffins, on the tiers of ledges at the sides."

On the same day the Lord Chamberlain issued his orders for the final details connected with the burial of the late Prince Consort. The same authority states:—

"It will take place at 12 o'clock on Monday, the 23rd, and, in accordance with the expressed

wishes of the lamented deceased, will be private and strictly limited in all that relates to funereal pomp and ceremonial. In fact, the recent precedent set at the interment of the late Duchess of Kent will be as closely followed as possible; and though, from the very large number of attached personal friends whom the Prince has left to mourn his early loss, the funeral must necessarily be on a scale of greater magnitude, it will not, as regards 'state,' be less strictly private. In only one important particular will it differ from the Duchess of Kent's, and that is in there being a carriage procession from the Castle to St. George's Chapel. It will be recollected that the remains of the Duchess of Kent were privately conveyed from Frogmore during the previous night, and deposited in the Chapel to await the ceremony of the following day. This course will not be followed at the burial of the Prince, as the body will remain in the private apartments at Windsor till the procession starts. From the Castle the remains will be conveyed in a hearse drawn by eight horses, the hearse and the housings of the horses bearing heraldic escutcheons of the arms of England and Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. No private carriages, of course, will follow. All the invited mourners,

the Ministers, the foreign Ministers, the chief officers of the household, and the personal friends of the deceased Prince will be conveyed to the chapel in 15 mourning coaches. Up to last night it had not been decided whether or not the ladies of the officers of the household would be invited to attend in the chapel, but it seems to be generally understood at present that none but gentlemen will take part in the ceremony. Those who are not entitled by rank to form part of the procession will await the arrival of the *cortége* at the Chapel itself. No visitors will be admitted to the court-yard, or, indeed, at all within the walls of the Castle during the time the funeral is taking place."

As this work is intended to be in the hands of the public by the day of the melancholy funeral, it is impossible to add later particulars here.

It was stated that Her Majesty since the Prince's death frequently observed to those around that she could scarcely realize the fact that her husband was dead—it appears so like a dream; and so it must for some time appear to the nation at large, for time alone will show how great the loss is. But we know that all is ordered for the best, and the wish of the millions of Her subjects, to whose feelings there will doubtless be a response among

every civilized nation of the world at large, is that Her Majesty, while consoled in some slight measure by their heart-felt sympathy, may be more and more sustained in this her second grief, by a far higher consolation than man can offer.

The last occasion on which the people of England were called upon to put themselves into mourning for the death of a Prince Consort was just 153 years ago, Prince George of Denmark, the Consort of Queen Anne, having died on the 28th of October, 1708; but the easy and placable Prince wa socially and politically very much of a cipher, and his loss never occasioned a tithe of the public grief which has been elicited by the terribly sudden and universally lamented death of our own beloved Prince Consort.

Perhaps a closer parallel to the sad event is to be found in the decease of the Princess Charlotte in her first confinement, which filled the nation during the last generation at once with consternation, grief, and sympathy. And yet her loss, in one point of view, was light in comparison with the present misfortune. Public interest was then called forth on behalf of a young lady from whom much was hoped because she was young; and compassion was called forth quite as much from

the way in which she died as by what she was known to be in herself. And except her husband, who was then but little known, there were none of her immediate relatives who could claim much share in the best sympathies of the English people. But here the parting has been infinitely more sad; the loss more serious and real. "The extinction of bright, but vague and uncertain hopes is as nothing when compared with the sudden interruption of a life, in which hopes have been fulfilled and exceeded, in which promise has been tested and made good by experience, and which was still young enough to inspire the confidence, grounded on past performance, of ample usefulness yet to come." If in the present instance there is not the romantic sadness of an early separation, there is the far more terrible grief arising from the overthrow of ripened happiness, coming at a period when life has lost little of the quickness of youth in feeling and enjoyment, but in which sorrow has far deeper and stronger roots than in early youth. And when we think of that blameless and loving circle, against whom, in their invidious height, not a word of slander has ever been spoken, overtaken by a calamity so sudden and so irreparable, we feel impressed perforce, not only with the magnitude of

the disaster, but also, much more, because we see that the sufferers who claim our sympathy are also most worthy of it. England will never forget that even in the first bitter shock of her bereavement, Victoria did not lose, even for a moment, her Royal dignity, and that she showed herself, by her noble bearing of calm self-possession, at once the woman and the Queen.

CHAPTER IV.

PUBLIC MANIFESTATIONS OF GRIEF.

THUS then closed the career of one of the most amiable and excellent Princes that have ever taken up their homes in this realm of England. The suddenness and bitterness of the blow to her Majesty, and to the rest of the Royal circle at Windsor Castle, can be more easily imagined than described; and the sympathy of all her subjects with her distress was all the more genuine and deep on account of the fact that this was the second domestic trial which had befallen our beloved Queen within the course of a single year. To a lady of so domestic a disposition as Queen Victoria, it is, indeed, a heavy affliction to have found herself bereft of a mother and a husband within little more than eight or nine months; and when the public remembered what a mother, and what a husband she lost in the Prince, they naturally felt that his death was no ordinary occasion to call forth

the warmest and the tenderest feelings of dutiful and respectful sympathy.

The death of a Prince, illustrious for his virtues and his talents no less than for his exalted station, could not be regarded as other than a national calamity. Every man in England felt that the state had lost a wise counsellor as well as the friend and leader of every social reform. The manifest feeling which was displayed throughout London on the receipt of the mournful intelligence, the despatches which were received from the provinces, and the allusions which were made to the sad event in ten thousand pulpits, on Sunday, the 15th, all testified to the universality of the grief which was entertained.

The outward manifestations of grief at the loss of the Prince, and of sympathy with the Queen in her bereavement, did not pass away with the day on which the death of the Prince Consort was first announced.

In the City of London this feeling was more especially evinced. On the afternoon of Monday a Court of Common Council had been summoned to meet at the Guildhall, under the Presidency of the Lord Mayor, but the business of the day was set aside, and a loyal address of condolence to the

Queen and Royal family was voted in its stead. A full account of the proceedings on that occasion cannot be here given, but we would record that the following resolution of condolence was passed unanimously :—

"That this Court has received, with a feeling of profound sorrow, the melancholy intelligence of the decease of his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Consort of her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen.

"That this Court sincerely offers to her Most Gracious Majesty, and to every member of the Royal Family, its deep sympathy and condolence upon the irreparable loss her Majesty, her august family, and the nation at large have sustained.

"That this Court, in recording its high admiration of the distinguished virtues of the late Prince Consort, of his constant solicitude for the protection of British interests, and his encouragement of education, art, and science, desires to express the deepest feeling of loyalty and affection for the person of her Majesty, with the earnest prayer that, under Divine Providence, her Majesty's life may long be spared and be blessed with tranquillity and resignation under her Majesty's most afflicting bereavement."

When the solemn intelligence of his Royal High-

ness's death reached the metropolis, shortly before midnight, on Saturday, the 14th, it, of course, could only become known to a limited number of persons. All the journals with large circulations had at that time gone to press, and only contained the latest bulletins issued on Saturday evening. Consequently, up to an advanced hour on the following morning a large proportion of the inhabitants of the metropolis remained in ignorance of the fatal termination of his Royal Highness's illness, though in the City many persons had been awakened soon after midnight by the tolling of the great bell at St. Paul's Cathedral, some hundreds of people assembling in the churchyard on the sound of that bell of evil omen reaching their ears. When first acquainted with the fact many refused to accept it as truth—hoping, indeed, that it was merely a repetition of a rumour of his Royal Highness's death which had been circulated early in the week. The few newspapers that contained the sorrowful notification were purchased at high premiums; and in almost every street crowds of persons were seen surrounding the possessors of these sheets, anxiously listening while the statements contained therein were being read aloud. None attempted to disguise their feelings of sincere

regret for the deep loss her Majesty had sustained, while the character of the illustrious deceased called forth expressions of great admiration. Thousands of persons only became cognisant of the mournful event as they were proceeding to church. By this time later editions of the majority of the weekly newspapers had been issued, and were being hawked through the principal thoroughfares. As the words, "Death of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort," printed on sheets enclosed in large black borders, were perceived by any of the people who were proceeding to various places of public worship, they were evidently startled by the announcement.

About noon the news had circulated throughout the entire metropolis, and considerable excitement prevailed in many parts. The blinds in many private houses were drawn down, while even the tradesmen who carry on business during Sunday, either wholly or partially closed their premises in the afternoon out of respect for the departed.

Being Sunday no manifestations could be made at the Government offices; but in order to show how universal was the desire to pay respect to the memory of his Royal Highness, it may be mentioned that even the steamers plying upon the river

had their flags half-mast high, and the ships of all nations paid the same mark of respect to the departed Prince.

Twelve hours had only just elapsed after the Prince breathed his last, before a more than usually large assemblage were filling the various churches and chapels of the metropolis and other parts. There was a solemn eloquence in the subdued but distinctly perceptible sensation which crept over the congregations in the different churches when, in the prayers for the royal family, the Prince Consort's name was omitted. It was well remarked, if ever the phrase was permissible, it might then be truly said that the name of the departed Prince was truly conspicuous by its absence, for never was the gap that this event has made in our national life, as well as in the domestic happiness of the Palace, more vividly realized than when the name that has mingled so familiarly in our prayers for the last twenty years was, for the first time, left out of our public devotion.

In nearly every place of worship the event (where already known) was at least alluded to in the sermons delivered, and the prayers of the several congregations desired in behalf of Her Majesty and her bereaved family, met with a fervent response from all hearts.

On Sunday afternoon Canon Champneys, towards the conclusion of his sermon at St. Paul's Cathedral, before an immense congregation, made a touching allusion to the national bereavement, and commended her Majesty and the Royal Family to the sympathies and prayers of his sorrowing audience. He besought his hearers not to forget her who, dear to all her country, was at that moment in such sorrow as none but the widow can know. That was not the place, nor was it the time to talk of one who had just passed from a useful, active, modest, unostentatious life—from being an example, to the husband and the father, to the citizen and the prince. But he would most earnestly exhort them to think of that solemn event—the consequences of which might even be most serious to the country—a father removed during the minority of his eldest son—who never could have such an oversight as that of a father—of one removed from his adopted country, who had been the originator of many things which had been for its welfare, and who had been the sayer and doer of nothing which tended to his own dishonour or damage. He would have them remember in their prayers before God, one who yet lived in the hearts of her subjects; and beseech the Almighty

to enable her to bear the heavy blow which had fallen upon her—that her life might be spared, and that the love which her family had borne to the departed, and the respect they would pay to his memory, might be concentrated in a tenfold increased reverence and love around that one who was now left alone."

At the close of the service, Mr. Goss, the organist of the Cathedral, performed on the organ Handel's wondrously expressive "Dead March in Saul," which probably was also heard in many another cathedral and humbler town church in the course of the day.

It is hardly necessary to say that every despatch from the country expressed the same deep sense of the loss our land has sustained in the death of the Prince Consort. Throughout the kingdom the mournful sound of the tolling bell was heard. In nearly all the churches of the towns and villages where the sad news arrived before the service, not only was the name of the Prince Consort omitted from the prayers, but the clergymen referred to the event in their sermons. At the ports the colours were struck, and the royal standard floated half-mast high. In some places muffled peals were

rung. Everywhere there were open manifestations of deep grief and keen sympathy.

On Monday, the 16th, many of the metropolitan tradesmen partially closed their shop windows. Along Cheapside, and in Fleet-street, the Strand, Haymarket, Pall-mall, Piccadilly, Oxford-street, and other leading thoroughfares, the majority of the shops had two or three shutters up. The royal standard, which usually floats from the steeple of St. Margaret's, Westminster, was hoisted half the height of the flag-pole, as was also the flag on the steeple of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the Victoria Tower of the Houses of Parliament, &c. The colours of the Foot and Life Guards also had a piece of crape suspended from the pike-head, and the commissioned officers each wore crape on his arm. The national flag was hoisted half-mast high at the Tower of London, where the Prince had held the office of High Constable since the death of the late Duke of Wellington.

The theatres were all closed; and, with hardly an exception, all music-halls, and other places of amusement not under the immediate control of the Lord Chamberlain.

The Colosseum and the Polytechnic were closed throughout the day and evening. The same was

the case with the Royal Gallery of Illustration, and many other kindred places of amusement, and several private and public concerts and soirées, among which may be mentioned the Monday Evening Popular Concerts, at St. James's Hall, were postponed.

Cambridge.

"The news of the decease of his Royal Highness has cast a feeling of universal gloom over all classes here, more profound, if possible, than in other places in the kingdom, by reason of his intimate relationship with the University as its Chancellor, the residence of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales amongst us, and the actual presence of the Prince Consort here just before he was seized with the illness which has ended so lamentably. The idea that anything alarming was to be apprehended was first created here on Saturday morning, when it became known that the Prince of Wales had been summoned to London by telegram the night before.

The telegram conveying the sad news of the death of the Prince Consort reached the Vice-Chancellor about nine o'clock yesterday morning; but the melancholy event was not generally known in the town till after morning service; and, in

consequence, prayers were offered up in many of the churches and Dissenting chapels for his Royal Highness's recovery.

The bells of the University (St. Mary's) and other churches commenced tolling half-minute time, and continued to do so during the intervals between the services; but even then the mass of people were unwilling to believe that the melancholy news was true. In the University Church in the afternoon profound emotion was evident when the officiating minister, the Rev. C. D. Marston, of Caius College (select preacher for the month), omitted the name of his late Royal Highness from the prayer for the Royal Family, and (as Chancellor) from that for the blessing of the Almighty on "this our body" (*i.e.*, the University), in which prayer the various dignitaries of the University are enumerated. The rev. divine took his text (the sermon being part of a course) from John xiv., 2, 3, and after treating the subject generally, said it might be taken as a ground of comfort in trial, and then in allusion to the decease of his Royal Highness the Prince Chancellor, reflections such as those, he said, chimed in with the circumstances now affecting the land, but more particularly their academic body. The tidings which

had that day reached them, and had spread, doubtless, throughout the whole country, tidings which would carry grief to every feeling heart, and which, telling the university of the loss of their royal and honoured Chancellor, must touch *them* in an especial manner —those tidings called them to earnest prayer, that their Almighty Saviour might now reveal to our afflicted and beloved Queen the full comfort of His love and grace. None but those who, like her Majesty, had been called to endure the bitterest of separations, can tell the poignant sorrow of which she now experiences the first sharp cutting strokes. But all could tell a measure of her woe; all could picture to themselves the desolation she must feel, who so lately lost a revered mother, and now has been bereft of a worthy husband. "Oh! (said the rev. preacher) we will surely pray for her and for her house, that He who hath smitten will vouchsafe to bind; that He who hath wounded will himself heal; that he who hath bidden the tears of the Queen and her family to flow and their hearts to mourn will gently dry their tears, and in His own time and due measure assuage their sorrow with the words of His dear Son, 'Let not your hearts be troubled.' Called to give up one whom they have loved, and a nation has honoured,

may the present woe be mitigated by a hope of a glorious future, when the promise of the Lord Jesus, their Saviour and ours, shall be fulfilled at the re-union of all his faithful ones—'I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, ye may be also.'"

The late Chancellor took a lively interest in everything that concerned the University, and was an active promoter of whatever might conduce to its honour and the consequent benefit to society. The Vice-Chancellor gave notice that at two o'clock on Monday, the day appointed for the funeral of his Royal Highness, a sermon would be preached at Great St. Mary's Church, by the Regius Professor of Divinity.

In consequence of the decease of his Royal Highness, all festivities in the colleges incidental to the season were at once given up, and all invitations recalled. The shops, and some private houses were partially closed.

The intended festivities at Wimpole, the seat of the Earl of Hardwicke, at which his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was to have been present, were of course at once countermanded.

The news of the death of the Prince Consort reached Oxford on the Sunday morning, but at first was not credited. As the day advanced confirmation of the sad intelligence arrived from various quarters, the Dean of Christ Church receiving a telegram from Windsor in the course of the afternoon; and much sympathy was everywhere expressed for Her Majesty's affliction. On the following day the bells of most of the College chapels and parish churches were tolled, and the shutters of the shops half closed throughout the city.

To the feeling manifested at Windsor we have already alluded. On Sunday at the parish, and Holy Trinity Churches appropriate sermons were preached, and the emotion evinced by the congregations told how deeply the hearts of all were touched by the bereavement which has so suddenly and so sorely come upon their Queen, their country, and themselves.

A record of the notices sent from the chief provincial cities and towns would occupy too large a space in a work of this nature, but the following will suffice to show what was the general state of feeling through the country, on the receipt of the sad news of December 14.

Manchester, Sunday.

The announcement of the death of the Prince Consort occasioned a profound sensation here. The bells rang only muffled peals. At the Cathedral, Canon Richson announced the melancholy event, and at most other churches and chapels it was formally announced, or incidentally mentioned in prayers. Its startling suddenness caused no common emotion in the hearers. Flags were hoisted half-mast high on the Exchange and Infirmary. The people rushed to the few reading-rooms which were open to see the telegram, or gathered in the streets to speak of it as a great national calamity.

Birmingham, Sunday.

The melancholy tidings of the death of the Prince Consort were officially communicated to the Mayor (Mr. H. Manton) early this morning. As soon as the mournful intelligence was received at the various churches the minute bell was tolled, and continued the solemn knell throughout the day. The clergymen officiating at the churches within the borough communicated the fact of Prince Albert's decease to their various congregations during the morning service, and in all cases the news produced the greatest consternation and regret.

The name of the illustrious dead is inseparably connected with some of the leading institutions of an educational and progressive character in this town; and his efforts during frequent visits here in the promotion of the arts, sciences, and education generally, have endeared his memory to the hearts of all ranks and classes in Birmingham.

Bristol, Monday.

The intelligence of the death of the Prince Consort has had a most depressing effect upon all classes of citizens. Yesterday flags were hoisted half-mast high from all the public buildings, and at the Cathedral and many of the parish churches the preachers feelingly alluded to the solemn event.

This morning all the principal shops were partially closed. The judge of the County Court referred to the event as a national bereavement, and Mr. Commissioner Hill, on taking his seat at the Bankruptcy Court, alluded to it in most feeling terms.

Liverpool, Monday.

The announcement of the death of the Prince Consort has created a universal feeling of sorrow and regret in this town, where his Royal Highness on several occasions endeared himself to all classes of the community by his affability and eloquence.

Many of the tradesmen's shops are partially closed, and flags hoisted half-mast at the Town Hall and many public and private buildings, and on the majority of the ships in the river. It is universally felt that at the present moment the death of the Prince Consort was truly a national loss. The expression of sympathy and affectionate regard for the Queen and her family were yesterday to be heard on all sides. The intelligence was in most cases first communicated in the churches and chapels. The American ships in port have formed no exception in the mourning display.

Leeds, Monday.

The news of the death of his Royal Highness was received in Leeds yesterday morning about ten o'clock, and excited not only the profoundest surprise, but a feeling of the deepest regret, &c. Last night a muffled peal was rung at the parish church. From our correspondents at Huddersfield, Darlington, and numerous other places, we learn that the death of the Prince had caused profound and general grief.

Portsmouth, Sunday.

"The news of the death of the Prince Consort has caused quite a consternation here amongst the army, navy, and general public, as it was most

unexpected. Many persons only became aware of this national calamity while at church, when it became observed that the health of the Prince Consort was not prayed for, and when the prayer asking God's protection on 'all widows and orphans' was fervently offered up. If the calamity throughout England is felt as it appears to be here there is general sorrow in the land. The squadron struck their colours to-day, and on board the Victory the Royal ensign of England and that of the late Prince were hoisted half-mast high. The Royal standard also floated half-mast high above the town gates, the dock gate, the gun wharf, Southsea Castle, Blockhouse, the fort, the ramparts, and all Government departments, as well as above the Sailors' Home, and several private establishments."

Southampton, Sunday.

The intelligence of the death of our much-lamented Prince Consort reached this town by telegram this morning about eleven o'clock, and was given out by the clergy and others in most places of public worship. The melancholy event has cast a general gloom over the town. The whole of the mail packets and shipping in the docks and River Itchin, the Custom House, the

various consulates, and other public institutions, lowered their flags to half-mast immediately on receipt of the greatly to be deplored tidings. The different churches rang muffled peals during the afternoon, and much genuine and heart-felt sympathy was expressed for our beloved Sovereign.

Reading, Monday.

The inhabitants of this, the chief town in the Royal county, sustained a severe shock on Saturday night by the receipt of a telegram, announcing that her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family had taken their last leave of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort, whose death was momentarily expected. The bells of the parish churches tolled after the intelligence arrived yesterday, and the melancholy event was the subject of very feeling remarks from the various pulpits. There was a visible depression of spirits in every place of worship.

Edinburgh, Sunday.

The melancholy intelligence of the death of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort reached Edinburgh by the telegraph at an early hour this morning, and before the commencement of the forenoon services had become known to several official persons, and to many of the clergymen in

the city. The bells of the city churches were tolled between the hours of one and two o'clock, and five and six o'clock, p.m., being the intervals between divine service, and at those hours the sound of the muffled bells, tolled in minute strokes, was heard throughout the town, &c.

Dublin, Monday.

When the intelligence of the death of the Prince Consort was received in Dublin, the most sincere regret was expressed in all quarters, and by all classes. In most of the churches in the metropolis, the clergymen who preached, took occasion to allude to the melancholy event in terms of eulogium, and the bells of Christ Church Cathedral and the principal churches in Dublin, rang funeral peals.

A few further extracts from the notices of sermons delivered on Sunday, and of the observance of that day in different places, may not be uninteresting:—

At Bow Church, Cheapside, the Rev. Mr. Vine preached, and most feelingly announced the death of the husband of our Sovereign.

The Rev. J. Spence, D.D., of the Poultry Chapel, City, both morning and evening prayed with much earnestness that the Queen might

be "graciously sustained" in this her great grief and pungent sorrow, by Him who shed tears at the grave of a departed friend, and who came to cheer the disconsolate and to pour heavenly balm into wounded hearts.

At St. Mark's Church, St. John's-wood, the Rev. J. M. Bellew, S.C.L., instead of the sermon he had prepared, preached an extemporary discourse on the death of the Prince. He took his text from the 1st Lesson for the morning's service, Isaiah xxv., part of the 8th verse—"He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

At the Lambeth Orphan Asylum, the sermon on St. Mathew xi., v. 8, "Behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses," was throughout an application of the melancholy event.

A most feeling allusion was made in the morning by the Right Rev. Dr. Morris, the Bishop of Troy, in the course of an address to the congregation present at the noon-day service of the Roman Catholic church of Chelsea, Cadogan-terrace, Sloane-street. The venerable preacher, in the course of his address, paid a high tribute to the virtues and worth of the departed, which he prayed might plead for him before the throne of Grace.

His lordship also dwelt upon the depth of the affliction to our most gracious Queen, and his feeling discourse affected many of the congregation even to tears. The attendants at the Roman Catholic chapels generally throughout London were not wanting in a like display of feeling.

The Archimandrite Narcissus Morphinos paid a high tribute of respect and admiration to the defunct Prince. "It is true," said the rev. gentleman, "we are foreigners, but we are attached to England by the indissoluble ties of gratitude, for to England we partly owe our independence; consequently, this great national sorrow is deeply felt by us; let us then join our Christian brethren of England—our co-religionists, because as Christians we are all of one religion—and fervently pray the Lord of life and death to bestow consolation and long life on her Majesty the Queen and the Royal family, and award celestial happiness to the departed Prince."

In the course of the service at the Scotch Church, Crown-court, Dr. Cumming formally announced the death of the Prince Consort, and asked that the prayers of his congregation for their beloved and now widowed Queen might be more than ordinarily fervent. We were now as a nation, he

said, it might be on the verge of war; there was need of wise and sound advisers, and this made it more peculiarly painful, that the one who stood nearest in her Majesty's confidence should have been so suddenly removed. The event, however, had happened under God's administration. There was no chance poison in the air which induced the fever, and they might rest assured that the Prince Consort's mission was fulfilled or he had not been taken away. He had done what was assigned him to do to the utmost of an enlightened mind and a right conscience, and having done so his departure was best for the living—best, doubtless, for him that was gone. And that magnificent epitaph might fittingly be written on his tomb—the most magnificent for a Christian, whether a poor Sunday-school teacher or the Royal Consort of the world's greatest Queen—"He doth rest from his labours and his works do follow him."

At Exeter-hall a special sermon on the duty of Christians in relation to the American difficulty was delivered by the Rev. William Brock, of Bloomsbury. The rev. gentleman gave out as his text Psalm 112 and verse 7:—"He shall not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is fixed trusting in the Lord." Evil tidings, he said, were in the

midst of them that day—evil tidings for which they had been wholly unprepared. They could hardly believe in the calamity which had happened —it seemed to be a dream. Most earnestly did he invite them to pray that God would fulfil his promise upon the fatherless and the widow. He appealed to their evangelical loyalty, and in the day of her poignant sorrow, he desired they would pray, "God save the Queen."

JOHN-STREET, BEDFORD-ROW.—The Hon. and Rev. B. W. Noel, alluding on Sunday morning to the death of the Prince Consort said:—"We meet to-day to a certain extent in gloom and sorrow. A prince has been taken from us, who has descended to the grave with a universal title to respect and affection. There are very few princes who have merited so well of their country as he has done." "When I was preaching lately at Ryde, I learned from one or two sources, that the clergyman at whose church the Royal family were in the habit of attending was a singularly Christian man, and that when more than usually plain and impressive in preaching the Gospel, he has been more than once thanked by the Prince. When we know how apt men of rank and wealth are to contract a positive feverish dislike to the Gospel, and what men in

his position sometimes think of religion, it is with still more bitter grief and profound sorrow that we contemplate his departure from among us."

The "Metropolitan Tabernacle," was crowded to excess in anticipation that a sermon would be preached upon the death of Prince Albert; but although Mr. Spurgeon pathetically drew the attention of his congregation to the subject, he announced his intention of addressing himself to it on a future occasion.

At "St. James's Hall," the Rev. Newman Hall officiated at the special afternoon services, and both in his prayer and sermon he made most affecting reference to the death of the Prince Consort. The congregation engaged, at his request, for a short space in silent prayer for our beloved Queen.

The Jews of course hold their religious assemblies on Saturday, and when they met, the bulletins held out no hope, but we understand that in all the synagogues prayers were offered up for the recovery of the Prince, accompanied by the collection for the sick, the usual practice in their assemblies.

Nothing within the recollection of the "oldest inhabitant" has created such a sensation in the city of York as the lamented death of the Prince Consort. No reference was made to the circum-

stance in the morning service at the Cathedral, but during the afternoon the large bell was tolled, whilst at the evening service the Minster was crowded in anticipation of some appropriate demonstration. The anthem which had been announced was Boyce's, "Wherewithal shall a young man," &c., but for this was substituted Handel's "Blessed are the departed;" and at the conclusion of the service, the solemn dirge, the "Dead March in Saul" was performed upon the organ by Mr. Monk, the greater bulk of the congregation retaining their seats until its conclusion.

At Reading, about an hour before the church service, the funeral knell at St. Mary's and St. Giles's churches announced to the inhabitants the death of the Prince Consort. At St. Mary's Church the Bishop of Oxford preached in the evening, and spoke in his usual eloquent and heart-stirring language of "the cloud which had that day spread over the land."

At a meeting at which the Rev. D. M'Neil presided at Liverpool on Monday night, he rose, deeply affected, and said:—

"My Christian friends, your minds are preoccupied—your hearts are pre-engaged; in common with all the people of England, your pulses have

been beating high for our national honour, and now your feelings are oppressed by our national calamity. Our beloved Queen is a widow; the Royal family are fatherless children, and never in the history of mankind has a great nation been so approximated to the sympathy of a private family as England is by the news of yesterday." . . . "Britannia weeps to-day because Victoria weeps." . . . "Peace! Peace to Britannia, Peace! The peace that passeth understanding, to Britannia's Queen. What created intellect can fully conceive—what created spirit can truly feel—what created tongue can adequately express the horrors of war or the blessings of peace? And who can give true peace to the bereaved mourner but He—the gracious Saviour who is our peace with God?"

At Earlswood Asylum for Idiots, Redhill, in consequence of the much to be lamented death of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort the usual musical entertainment was postponed. The Prince took a special interest in this charity, and it may be remembered that, in addition to laying the first stone and opening the building, his Royal Highness twice visited the asylum, and was one of its Royal patrons.

Lord Colville, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Honour-

able Artillery Company, addressed to the corps the following message of condolence on the death of the Prince Consort:—

"Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Colville, with feelings of profound regret, condoles with the Honourable Artillery Company upon the demise of their illustrious Captain-General. Ever since his appointment to the command of the corps, in the year 1843, the Prince Consort has exerted his high influence in the promotion of its interests and welfare."

Several officers of Metropolitan Rifle Volunteer corps adopted complimentary mourning; namely, a band of black crape three inches wide worn on the left arm above the elbow.

Many public bodies passed resolutions expressing profound sorrow at the Prince's death. Special meetings of town councils in many places were convened for that purpose, and metropolitan vestries met and embodied their sentiments in addresses of condolence to Her Majesty on the irreparable loss she has sustained.

Mr. Dickens put off readings, for which many thousand persons had obtained tickets at Liverpool and Chester, for a whole week, on account of the general grief felt for the loss of the Prince.

Several musical professional tours were also abandoned in consequence of the death, and numerous meetings in London and the provinces were postponed.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin received the following letter from the Earl of Carlisle :—

"London, Dec. 15, 1861.

My Lord,—I feel that I discharge a painful duty in personally communicating to your lordship the death of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort. I feel confident that in the city over which you now preside, and the country generally, there will be an earnest desire not only to comply with the directions for outward mourning, which will be issued by the proper authorities, but to signalise such an illustrious and stainless memory with the genuine sympathy of the heart, and to join in general prayers, that it may please Almighty God to soften and hallow this irreparable loss to our beloved Queen.

"Your faithful servant, Carlisle."

A notice was issued to the Fellows of the Royal Horticultural Society that, in consequence of the death of his Royal Highness the President of the Society, the gardens would remain closed till after the funeral. In consequence of the calamity too

the "Winter Speeches" were not delivered at St. Paul's School on the day fixed, Thursday, December 19. The Master and Wardens of the Merchant Taylors' Company (of which the late Prince Consort was an honorary member) also dispensed with the meeting of the school for the public examination and speeches on Tuesday, December 17, and the entertainment at the Hall.

The meeting of the Society of Arts (of which his late Royal Highness was President) appointed for the 18th instant, was, of course, at once postponed.

It has been already mentioned that the telegraph conveyed the news of the death of the Prince Consort to the Continent, and England soon heard by the same means how that news was received. Sympathy was at once awakened among all classes of the Prussian people, and the Royal family were plunged into the deepest mourning.

The Emperor of the French, after sending on the Sunday a telegraphic despatch offering his condolence to the Queen in Her Majesty's terrible bereavement, made in the evening a high dignitary of the Imperial household leave for London with autograph letters from himself and the Empress, expressing profound regret and sympathy.

A correspondent of one of the daily papers writes from Paris under date December 16 :—

"Last night the news of the Prince Consort's death created a sensation here difficult to describe; but it was naturally felt more deeply among the British inhabitants of Paris than among any other. Already several of them have put on mourning, and numbers of the well-to-do in the world are in the same manner about showing their sympathy with the Queen in this her heaviest affliction."

The correspondent of the *Guardian* writes under the same date from Paris :—

"The distressing tidings of the death of Prince Albert, received early yesterday morning, created here a sensation only second to that which must have been experienced among yourselves. In English and French circles alike the event was spoken of in the terms and with the feeling appropriate to private rather than public mourning, and the sympathy shown for the great and irreparable loss which Her Majesty and the country generally have sustained was of the warmest character. The respect which Her Majesty has known how to inspire in France, as everywhere else in the world, is so great, that people of all ranks express themselves, in regard to anything that causes her afflic-

tion, with an interest rarely accorded to such positions. As you passed along the streets yesterday the matter was the subject of comment in every Sunday group, accompanied by those manifestations of real and spontaneous sorrow which are won for those of high estate only by the public and general impression of duties accomplished and fair example set. What may be called the public character of Prince Albert as a zealous patron of art and science, for the development of which he has done so much, was very highly appreciated in this country, and it may be said indeed throughout Europe, where his loss will everywhere be regarded as a public calamity. The *Moniteur* of this morning, in announcing the sad tidings, says:

"'This melancholy event, this sudden and premature decease, has plunged in grief the august Queen of Great Britain, the Royal Family of England, and the English nation. The Emperor, the Imperial Family, and all France will share, with all their sympathies, in this grief and in this sorrow.'

"The entire press speaks the same language, and declares that 'public opinion desires to associate itself with this cruel privation which has befallen Queen Victoria, the firm and faithful ally of France.'

These feelings, coupled with the friendly and highly honourable and disinterested support which the French people and press have afforded us under what they unanimously agree in calling an unpardonable indignity offered to our flag, seem to draw the two nations more closely together, and to beget a better understanding between them than has almost ever before existed."

Galignani's Messenger thus introduced the opinions of the French press on the decease of the lamented Prince :—

"The feeling created by the sad intelligence of the death of the beloved Consort of her Majesty Queen Victoria has been throughout Paris one of profound sorrow at the untimely loss of a Prince who had so many noble claims to public respect and affection, and of the deepest sympathy with the Royal family, but more particularly with the illustrious lady whom death has thus with cruel suddenness deprived of the trusted partner in whose sage and loving counsels she had ever found the safest of guides in every difficulty, and in whose devotedness and affection she had found consolation and support in the afflictions from which the most exalted rank is not exempt. This feeling, we are happy to acknowledge, is not confined to the English residents.

The American residents and many of the French are earnest and most sincere in their expressions of sympathy and condolence. The event is announced by the Paris journals in terms of unaffected regret. They dwell on the elevated example which he gave as a husband and a father, and pay a just tribute to his intelligence and his encouragement of every enterprise likely to benefit his adopted country."

"Our countrymen in Paris noticed with a melancholy satisfaction, that the flag at the Tuileries was hoisted half-mast high," says one of the journals.

The Prussian court went into mourning for a month, and the French court, as stated elsewhere, for three weeks.

On Monday, the day of the funeral, business will be generally suspended in London. The law courts will be closed, and also, no doubt, the shops in the principal streets.

So many spontaneous outward proofs of grief and sympathy spring, it is evident, from a real inward sense of loss.

The good Prince's death formed the chief topic of conversation in every direction, and what was just before the principal subject of interest—the American dispute—was considered for awhile of secondary importance.

CHAPTER V.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT.

HAVING in the four previous chapters given a brief history of the House of Coburg, an outline of the career of the late Prince Consort, an account of his last illness and death, and a narrative of the public manifestations of grief for our national loss, it may be well to bring this little volume to a close by placing upon permanent record the following selections from the comments of the home and foreign press upon the character of the illustrious Prince whom the grave stands ready to receive. It will be found that all the British journals, even those of the most opposite sentiments, unite in deploring the Prince as a great and good man, and one whom the Queen and the nation could ill afford to lose, more especially in the present threatening aspect of American affairs, and with the preparations for the Great Exhibition of the coming year still standing unfinished, while the hand that planned

and projected them lies cold in the dust in the royal vaults of St. George's, Windsor. It will also be seen that the representatives of public opinion in foreign nations are unanimous in the tribute of respect which they offer to the memory of the Prince, and in their respectful but hearty sympathy with the widowed Queen of England.

Times, Dec. 18*th*, 1861.

"If the Royal House of England required any new proofs of the nation's respect and affection, it would have found them in the manifestations of the last three days. Never in our remembrance has there been such universal sorrow at the death of an individual, and such deep and anxious sympathy with those left behind. The public have expressed not merely the conventional regret which attends the death of princes, but the real pain which they felt at hearing that a man of activity and genius, with high purposes and with the opportunities and the energy for realizing them, had been suddenly cut off in the vigour of life and in the full career of usefulness. But it need hardly be said that anxiety for the Queen has had much to do with the general sorrow for the Prince's death. It was well known that during their whole

married life her Majesty had been very much guided by the Prince, and that for the last few years, after his own judgment had ripened and his acquaintance with affairs had become more extended he had been able to take from his Consort the heaviest cares of her position. Our first thought, when we heard of the danger and then of the death of the Prince Consort, was—"How will the Queen bear it?" Two such shocks as her Majesty has suffered during the present year are enough to weaken the health of any woman had she otherwise for less cause for anxiety than the Sovereign of these realms and the mother of a family of princes. On this score the solicitude of the country may now, we believe, be set at rest. The Queen, though overwhelmed by the suddenness of the event, has not suffered in health, and bears her loss with fortitude and resignation. This news has satisfied everybody. There is in the public mind—it may be said of the great mass of the nation—such a feeling of unselfish goodwill towards her Majesty, that the question of public business has but a second place in their thoughts. They are glad to know that the Queen is well, and dismiss for the present the consideration of political matters.

"But the Queen, if we are rightly informed, shows herself at this supreme crisis of her life worthy of her high station. As if her own experience and penetration led her to divine what no one at such an hour could obtrude upon her, the Queen has declared that the present is a time which will not admit of mournful inaction, and that it is her duty to attend without delay to public business. That her Majesty should be capable of such an effort will gratify every one; but it need not be a matter of surprise. Even in ordinary life nothing is more common than to see women who during marriage have been accustomed to depend wholly on their husbands, and who have thought it impossible that they could ever face the rough struggles of the world, assuming in their widowhood a courage and independence of character seemingly foreign to their natures. The singular powers of mind possessed by the late Prince Consort induced the Queen to confide to him many duties, both public and domestic, because he could perform them more efficiently than herself, particularly during a period of her life when she was necessarily withdrawn at intervals from the world, and always much engrossed with family duties. But now Her

Majesty has the strength and the knowledge to undertake public business herself. Though relieved from much of the labours of Royalty during twenty-two years of married life, she has acquired an experience which will make her resumption of them not difficult. And to this it may be added, that the advance in years of her elder children will lessen the merely household cares which have hitherto pressed upon her, and leave more time for the study of public questions. Having, no doubt, these considerations in her mind, the Queen has, we are happy to say, already begun to dissipate the sad remembrance of her loss by attention to matters of public importance. With a feeling which will be readily understood and appreciated, the Queen had more especially set herself the task of mastering those subjects in which the late Prince Consort took an interest, believing it to be the best mode of showing devotion to his memory. We may therefore hope that even those matters of national concern in which the Prince's judgment and good taste were particularly useful will not suffer so much as was feared by his loss. But in this hour of political suspense there are questions of still greater importance to be thought of, and it is indeed satisfactory to the country to know that

we have on the throne a Sovereign whose nerves have been braced rather than paralysed by the chill of adversity.

"If anything could increase the respect which the bereaved family now command, it would be the devotion with which all its members have endeavoured to aid and comfort the Queen in her affliction. We believe the Prince of Wales has not fallen short of his sister, the Princess Alice, in this respect, and that he has already taken his place by his mother's side, as her stay and support in her distress. We have, indeed, as a people, every reason to hope that this good beginning may be followed by a career equally meritorious, and that, as the Queen has, within a few hours of his father's death, endeavoured to associate him with her in the arduous work of the British Monarchy, the Prince may feel all the solemnity of his position, and fit himself for the part to which he is destined. It must be obvious that for the Prince of Wales the period of nonage is past. Though legally a minor until November, 1862, his Royal Highness is nearly as old as his father was at his marriage, and more than two years older than his mother was when she ascended the Throne. If we add to this that he has been

specially educated to wear the British Crown, to which he has been Heir Apparent from his birth, and that he has had opportunities of seeing the world which were denied to his parents, not to speak of their predecessors of the House of Hanover, the Prince ought now to show the faculties which will make a good king. It is, no doubt, a sudden change which has come upon him. But a few days ago he was a youth at the University, without a thought of public life, and now he finds himself on the steps of the Throne, as its first friend and counsellor. From being restrained even beyond what is usual at his age by the care of a prudent father, he finds himself to some extent the head of his family—at any rate, its eldest male representative, and in some sense the guide of his younger brothers and sisters. The destiny for one so young is, indeed, a great one, but it is at the same time weighted with the heaviest cares. To bear these cares the Prince must now make up his mind, if he wishes to gain the affection and esteem of the country. The national goodwill is not to be obtained without some sacrifices, and the Prince has before him, as in the fable, two paths—those of duty and pleasure. The next few months will decide

whether he is to stand in popular estimation, where his late father stood—whether in the King who is to rule over us we are to look for one who, like his parents, will take an interest in all that benefits his people, and will show ability and energy in the study of it, or one who will only receive the conventional respect which belongs to his rank and office. Exposed to many temptations, his Royal Highness must resolve to earn public applause by resisting all that will draw him from the side of a mother and a Queen who requires his help, and from the service of a nation which needs every counsellor it can find."

From the Daily News.

"In the Prince Consort the labouring classes have lost an unostentatious but enlightened and zealous observer of their condition. Before more than a superficial attention had been paid by the higher classes to the necessity of improving the physical condition of those in the lowest position, he gave a powerful stimulus to improvement by the erection of a model cottage, at his own expense, in connection with the Exhibition of 1851. He had been in quiet communication with sanitary reformers on this topic, and was confidently looked

to for further manifestations of interest in the same direction on the occasion of the Exhibition to be held next year. There is good authority for affirming that if the sanitary condition of agricultural labourers were as well attended to by proprietors throughout the country as on the estates of Her Majesty, without any social disturbance, the death-rate, even in that class, which is so much above the rate prevalent amongst the labouring classes in towns, would be reduced by nearly one-half. His speech on the subject of the condition of domestic servants will be remembered for its soundness, and for its startling clearness of view, and for its benevolence in relation to the interests and condition of that large class of the community. His speech, as President of the Educational Conference, when he pointed out the place which the early earnings of children must have in the budget of the poor man's family, developed elementary conditions affecting the question of popular education which, except under the half-school-time system, had not commonly received due consideration, even from professed educationists. He was in advance in seeing the economical value of art-teaching, as well as its refining social importance. In these courses he

had no doubt the entire sympathy of Her Majesty. To superficial observation he might appear to be cold on social topics; but it was only because he had that calmness, and quiet persistency of observation and dispassionateness which is really necessary for their most efficient treatment. It would have been easier for him to have obtained a higher and warmer popularity by other pursuits, deemed more princely, and befitting his high political platform, than those in which he laboured to obtain sound preparation for the improvement of the physical, intellectual, and moral condition of the lowest classes of the population.

"The breadth of his view is exemplified in the fact, that when in his position as President of the Society of Arts, the project of an Industrial Exhibition was first submitted to him simply as an exhibition of English industry, he replied, 'Why not make it an exhibition of the industry of all nations?' He was well aware that such competition would tend to the sound industrial advancement of the country; that it was important that its condition in respect to the arts should be confronted with that of other countries. France had had previous exhibitions, but of another character. Under his auspices the

International Exhibition became a great consecration of industry and of the arts, and an institution imitated by all civilized populations. What a void does his loss occasion in the next celebration! There is in preparation for the next year, besides a meeting in the metropolis of the Association for the Promotion of Social Science, a meeting of the kindred Continental association, the Congress de Bienfaisance, in continuation of the meetings held at Brussels, Paris, Frankfort, and Vienna, for the promotion of measures of social and administrative improvement. The Prince's high and commanding intellectual position had caused him to be regarded as the future President, the one most qualified to give to the proceedings a befitting international character. Who may worthily fill his place? To those who have had business relations with him his speeches were well known to be in every sense his own, and to be characteristic of his own mind and studies. When his position is considered, those of his addresses which went beyond the requirements of State etiquette will be acknowledged to be of the highest public class of our time. At the meeting at York, where several Prime Ministers and practised orators spoke, it

was acknowledged that the speech of Prince Albert had an intellectual pre-eminence corresponding to his superior position. The last characteristic speech he made was at the opening of the Statistical Congress in London, where he evinced a mastery of the science which professors from all parts of Europe were assembled to promote. In his appreciation of the arts of peace he was a promoter of a new branch of the Order of the Bath, instituted in order to furnish a means of honouring civil merit.

"His own tastes were known to be for scientific and intellectual companionship rather than for the common aristocratic society. His tutor, Quetelet, of Brussels, speaks of him, from his knowledge as a tutor, as a thoroughly intellectual and good man, who, if he had not been a Prince, would have attained to intellectual eminence from a lower station. He brought scientific professors into the palace to give instruction to the royal children. It was at his instance that a place was given to Dr. Lyon Playfair in the royal household, and that a home was given to Professor Owen in Richmond-park, and to Faraday in the palace at Hampton-Court."

From the Globe.

"The all-pervading sorrow caused by the death of the Prince Consort is the best testimony to the national appreciation of his worth. All the petty cavils of envy and disappointment are drowned in the national grief. The Prince Consort was a man, and in common with his kind had his infirmities; but his noble acts, the outcome of a noble nature, far outweigh his share of our natural imperfections. The son of an ancient house, he was carefully nurtured, and his mind repaid the ample culture it received. Called to an exalted and difficult position, he brought to the performance of his task in life a strong sense of its responsibilities, a well stored and refined intellect, an affectionate and susceptible heart, and a cool, well ordered judgment. It was his conscientiousness, as well as his knowledge and his high talents, which fitted him to become the adviser of a constitutional Queen, and which enabled him to perform those duties with so much skill and wisdom. It is his great merit that he fully appreciated the obligations of his position, and that while his sympathies were always on the side of improvements calculated to increase our prosperity as a

nation, he never allied himself with party, but always obeyed the dictates of an independent judgment. He knew how to keep the happy mean, and to exert his influence for good without provoking hostility by zeal or partisanship. It is not only in his political capacity as the first counseller of the Sovereign that he has commanded our respect and won our gratitude. His services extended over even wider fields. Art and science and manufacturing industry owe to him an impetus which no other man in these realms could have imparted. Agriculture found in him a devoted patron and eager competitor. And where it was possible to aid a work of charity, to succour the miserable, to relieve the distressed and afflicted, to provide for the welfare of the orphan, to promote education in every shape, there the Prince Consort was certain to be found. In all humanising, civilizing, refining works, he was one of our foremost men. But perhaps to the British nation he is dearer and more beloved because he was the devoted and faithful Consort of our Queen, 'the pattern of a husband, and the model of a father.' The high and blameless life of Her Majesty and her Consort has made them beloved all over the civilized world; and we may be sure that these

examples will not be lost upon their sons and daughters.

"To human ken it is a sad and bitter ending of twenty-one years of an unsullied and beneficent life to pass away in its prime. So much had been done, yet so much remained to be done. So many purposes were only half fulfilled, or wholly unfulfilled. How great soever our faith in a wise and beneficent Providence, yet grief will have its way when a good man dies in the flower of manhood. Reflection will teach resignation, but reflection can only aid us when time has worn away the sharp edge of an universal grief. All we know and feel now is that one of 'the pillars of the State,' an affectionate husband, a wise father, a great friend of England, has been snatched away, and that neither the nation he served so well, nor the wife nor the children he loved so dearly, will have his aid and comfort and counsel ever any more."

From the Daily Telegraph.

"Those who came up from the West on Sunday morning, and gazed upon the hoar old castle towering above the distant trees—who saw the royal standard still waving above the keep—could

they have had one thought, one presentiment of the inexpressible woe that was hidden behind those grey old walls—of the havoc of happiness, the blasting of prospects, the dislocation of love, that a few days had worked there? There was the castle and the standard—there are still the pomp and state, the sceptre and the sway—and there, alas! lies he for whose happiness and prosperity a whole nation prayed, and who now needs but a shroud and a shell, a mattock and a spade, and six feet of earth. It is dreadful, it is terrible to dwell upon. As in the humblest household there are few things more ghastly and benumbing, after death has taken his own, than to stumble over memorials and tokens of the departed—to come upon the dead man's clothes, the dead woman's gloves, the half-finished letter, the drawing just begun—to hear his favourite dog whining, to hear her favourite bird twittering at the bars of its cage in wonder that the familiar hand ceases to feed it —so in the Imperial calamity which weighs upon England comes there a sudden shuddering, a mournful amazement, a wistful sorrow, as we see the trace of the dead Prince, and read of what he had done, and what he had yet to do, in a hundred different places and a hundred different forms.

Consider his darling project, the scheme to which he had devoted so much time and labour and trouble—so much and such exquisite tact and ingenuity. The name of Prince Albert must ever remain associated with the Great Exhibition of 1851. With its successor in 1862 it will have as equal and as durable a connection; but in how different a degree, in how sad a manner! The phantom of the dead prince seems hovering over those great domes. No portion of the giant structure was unfamiliar to him; no detail of the magnificent plan was indifferent to him. It was his child, his masterpiece; but the law of mutability declared that settled plans were to be shattered, and an assured success deprived of its brightest concomitant, and that, for the ten millionth time, man was to propose and God was to dispose. No comely form, no gracious words, shall we see and hear where they were so eagerly looked for. There will be the wedding feast of May, 1862, but the bridegroom will not be there. And thus it is that mutability scatters all the vain and confident imaginings of mankind to the winds. We are to do this or that to-morrow—and where are we to-morrow? To-morrow we die. We are equipped for the journey; we have prepared all

things; the ship is ready, the boatman waits; and then there comes a change, and we budge no more till the last trump calls on all that are mortal to arise.

"Who can venture to speculate, with the remotest degree of certainty, on what this lamentable event may bring forth, within a week, within a month, within a year, or to what capricious operations of mutability we may not be subjected through one solitary attack of gastric fever? Already the changes that have taken place are immense. The poor Prince of Wales was to have gone on a tour in the Holy Land; a grand entertainment was to have been given to him at Cambridge; he was to have spent Christmas with his august parents at Windsor, and then set out for Palestine. What has become of projected tour, or intended festivities, of Windsor merry-making? Then, again, as to America. Who can tell what influence this tragedy may exercise over our well-nigh enemies—what changes may be wrought by the receipt of the news that the Consort of the Queen is no more? With all their faults, the Americans are not destitute of kindly and generous impulses. We know that they regard Queen Victoria personally with feelings of exalted and

chivalrous admiration and esteem. Who can predict but that the news of her deprivation may soften a stubborn and captious race, may imbue them with better feelings, may evoke sympathy and cordiality from an estranged community, may turn their hearts to justice? When we look upon this side of the Atlantic we find the death of the Prince Consort threatening sad and alarming changes. For very many days the solicitude for the preservation of Her Majesty's health under her affliction will be of the most anxious and consecrated kind. The position of the heir to the throne is also comparatively changed; on the very threshold of his assuming the responsible functions of life, he is bereft of one who was his natural counsellor and guide, who would have been his safest and firmest adviser. Who is to fill the place of a father near Albert Edward? Of our own meaner domestic concerns it were almost unworthy to speak. That this awful calamity will make Christmas a season of mourning rather than one of rejoicing; that it will for a time paralyse trade; that it will arrest all projected festivities, and overshadow the whole country with melancholy—all this is sad to think upon, but it is necessary, and must be borne.

There may be times when sorrow is good for us, and when the rod of affliction is beneficent; we live in an era of mutability; we look for the storm to burst in one place, and it overwhelms us in another. His will be done, not ours. What can we do, as Christians, but bow our heads and bend our knees, and await that deliverance when, to paraphrase the magnificent lines of Spenser, no more change shall be, but a steadfast rest of all things, firmly stayed upon the pillars of Eternity.

"Our hopes are bruised but not broken. The Queen remains undaunted and indomitable, like some proud oak in Windsor Forest, from which the clinging ivy has been ruthlessly torn away, but which still stands unscathed, and defies the storm. The Prince of Wales remains to fulfil those duties, to accept those responsibilities for the undertaking of which he has been so nobly tutored by his dead father. And clustered round the monarch of the forest are those tender saplings, those budding trees, those dear young princes and princesses, so tenderly cared for, so sedulously trained by him whose eye is quenched, whose lips are dumb, whose hand is now cold and listless. No more will they hear his manly discourse, full of sage and sensible matter; no longer will they learn from him how

Imperial station and illustrious lineage are vain and unsubstantial things without wisdom, industry, and virtue. But the lessons which the Prince Consort taught his children will not soon or readily be forgotten. He was spared to see his eldest daughter go forth into the world to illumine a foreign Court with the lustre of those virtues and those talents which had been so admirably fostered in her calm and quiet English home. He was spared to see her become the happy mother of children destined, we trust, to perpetuate his race among his own countrymen. He was permitted to see his second daughter affianced to a Prince she loved; it was that daughter who soothed his dying pillow; it was that daughter, it was the Princess Alice who, during the whole of this mournful time, has been her mother's chief solace and reliance.

"It is now well known that the demeanour of the Queen has been full of the most courageous resignation to the decree of Heaven, and that torn with anguish, as she must still be, she has nerved herself to perform all the requirements of her high station. She is not less the Woman, but she is more than ever the Queen!

"Let those who would make our difficulties their

opportunity—let those who regard us with gangrened envy, and hold us in embittered hatred—bear these facts well in mind. Let them be told that not only does our Sovereign know how to bear herself towards her subjects, but that we, the Commons, know how to bear ourselves towards the Queen. The time will come when this awful wound will be healed up—when cheerfulness and happiness will reign once more in the Royal Family. In those days it will do Queen Victoria good to learn that in an inexpressibly mournful conjuncture her people were, as she was, fully equal to the occasion. With the solitary exception we named at the commencement of our remarks, there has not been for a hundred years an occasion in which the sympathy of the public with their Sovereign has been so spontaneous and so universal. Royal funerals have been plentiful enough! We have had hearses and *catafalques*, banners and ostrich plumes, palls and escutcheons, chamberlains with their staves, and heralds with their insignia, dirges and dead marches, torchlight obsequies and lyings in state, over and over again; but rarely, within the remembrance of living man, have tears so copious and so genuine been shed as for Prince Albert. No tribute of respect that can

be shown to his memory, even if in paying it we are called upon to make some sacrifice, should be denied. The Monarch has set the example; the people must needs follow. The Preacher tells us that there is a time for all things—a time to be sad, and a time to be merry; a time to laugh, and a time to weep. We have often shown ourselves capable of hearty enjoyment, and within the last four-and-twenty hours have also proved that we are susceptible of heartfelt sorrow, and know how to give to it a dignified expression."

From the Guardian.

"There were not many who, when Prince Albert first came among us, could have ventured to augur for him so successful a career: so much good done, a most difficult part so wisely and honestly played, so many snares and stumbling-blocks escaped. Coming, a foreigner, with foreign feelings and foreign sympathies, into the midst of a proud, high-spirited, jealous people, and not only into the midst of them, but to step over the heads of the proudest into all but the first place in honour among them, he had need to be one who could either thoroughly suppress his own character and his own ambition, or else one who thoroughly

understood the position open to him and had the abilities both to fill it worthily and to keep within it. Prince Albert has eminently done this. No one can say he has been an unimportant person in England. But he has been little heard of in spheres where he ought not to have been heard of. He has not concealed his sympathies; and these sympathies in various important subjects have from time to time not proved in accordance with English views. But though an able and honest man in his position could not fail to exercise influence, and that influence has not always been what we might wish it to be, he has never pressed his own convictions where others had a better right than he to judge and direct; and wherever, by a not unnatural desire, he felt tempted to mingle more directly in the affairs of a people in whom every year gave him a deeper interest, and he found the attempt not welcome, he has had the tact and the manliness to draw back frankly and at once. But he found plenty of occupation, where there was no danger of trenching on rights or wounding prejudices. He threw himself into the neutral field of science and of artistic and industrial improvement, and impressed upon many portions of it a new and more

hopeful character. Cut off by his position from the places where Englishmen gain a name for popular wisdom and effective speech, he took advantage of the numerous occasions where he was welcome as a chairman or a president, to appeal directly to the public ear and feeling, and show himself possessed of refined thought and cultivated powers of expression. Wherever he found branches of public business in which it was natural or expected that he should take part, he gave heartily and with good effect his time and attention. He has done many things that no one could have done but he; things for which other men either had not the time, or the social position, or the knowledge. Besides all this, we are told, on high authority, that his services have been very great and very honest, in helping the Queen to bear the burden of affairs. As her irresponsible, yet most secret and most trusted, adviser, his position in this respect was one which required in the highest degree delicacy, disinterestedness, and wisdom; and no higher praise can be given to his public course than the testimony of English politicians and of the popular voice, that he performed this duty well.

"This is one great merit in Prince Albert—that

he knew, or readily learned, his right place in England. But it is not the one which is now most thought of, and by which he will be best remembered. To the husband and father now lying dead at Windsor we owe the proof, new in our annals, that domestic life may be as pure, as free, as full of attachment, as pleasantly and rationally ordered, in a palace as in a country parsonage. It is not too much to say that the life which the Royal Family of England have led for the last twenty years is without example in kings' houses. Familiar as we are with it, the wonder and admiration which it excites are not exhausted. There is no reason in the world why it should not be so; but experience was sadly against the hope of better things; and to the Queen and Prince Albert belongs the merit of having believed in the possibility of that great revolution in manners, and of having accomplished it, which has made Royalty at this moment the most popular institution in England. And in such a change, whatever be the wishes and position of the wife, it must at last depend on the husband in great measure whether the good work is successfully carried out. Prince Albert performed his part, by being in all true, simple and earnest, as faithful and affectionate,

and interested and reasonable a head of his family as any other good and sensible Englishman. From his wife he was literally, we believe, not separated for more than a few weeks all the twenty-one years of their marriage; always at hand, always ready with counsel and sympathy. He chalked out the deviations, which all have admired, from that old etiquette of royal state by which kings and princesses were cut off from healthy freedom and common interests, and by which men were driven by *ennui* into vice and corruption. He found out that the Queen and her children might share those pleasant changes and contrasts of scene and life which afford so much enjoyment and refreshment to her subjects. And he made the education of his children a reality: with the feelings of a man who knew what a student's life is, and who had been a learner after he was the husband of the Queen of England, he thought that the heirs of crowns and dignities should share, as far as it was possible, the training and the instruction by which other young Englishmen are prepared for their work in life. And, little as Prince Albert sympathized with what Churchmen hold true and precious, no one can help seeing that a deeply religious spirit presided

over his ideas of family duty. The result is before us, the fruit of those twenty years faithfully and industriously spent. We may estimate the effects, political as well as social, of so innocent, so dignified, so well-ordered an example of family life at the pinnacle of our State, by imagining what would have been the consequences if unhappily it had been otherwise. For this good we owe a deep debt to Prince Albert: and, perhaps, it has hardly yet been duly estimated.

"He has left the consolation and support of unbroken affection and of a bright example. But things can never more be as they have been in the house where his presence was felt everywhere. We have seen, even in the midst of occasional public trouble, an unbroken tract of singularly bright and unalloyed happiness in the Queen's own circle. That is over. And it is over at a time when it is difficult not to feel the omen doubly depressing, as it meets us on the eve of such a future as too probably is rising upon us, and when we think of the message to us which is even now coming across the Atlantic."

The following lines, which appear in two of the most popular of our journals, deserve a place among other tributes to the Prince's memory:—

ALBERT, IN MEMORIAM.

DECEMBER 14TH, 1861.

How should the Princes die?
With red spur deep in maddening charger's flank,
Leading the rush that cleaves the foeman's rank,
And shouting some time-famous battle-cry?

Ending a pleasure day,
Joy's painted goblet fully drained, and out,
While wearied vassals coldly stand about,
And con new homage which they long to pay?

So have the Princes died.
Nobler and happier far the fate that falls
On him who 'mid yon aged Castle walls,
Hears, as he goes, the plash of Thames's tide.

Gallant, high-natured, brave,
O, had his lot been cast in warriors' days,
No nobler knight had won the minstrel's praise,
Than he for whom the half-reared banners wave.

Or, graced with gentler powers,
The song, the pencil, and the lyre his own,
Deigned he to live fair pleasure's thrall alone,
None had more lightly sped the laughing hours.

Better and nobler fate
His, whom we claimed but yesterday,
His, ours no more, his, round whose sacred clay
The death-mute pages and the heralds wait.

It was too soon to die,
Yet, might we count his years by triumphs won,
By wise, and bold, and Christian duties done,
It were no brief eventless history.

This was his princely thought;
With all his varied wisdom to repay
Our trust and love, which on that Bridal Day
The Daughter of the Isles for dowry brought.

For that he loved our Queen,
And, for her sake, the people of her love,
Few and far distant names shall rank above
His own, where England's cherished names are seen.

Could there be closer tie
'Twixt us who, sorrowing, own a nation's debt
And Her, our own dear lady, who as yet
Must meet her sudden woe with tearless eye:

When with a kind relief
Those eyes ran tears, O might this thought employ!
Him whom she loved we loved. We shared her joy,
And will not be denied to share her grief.

TO THE MEMORY OF PRINCE ALBERT.

Beneath an avalanche of sudden woe—
A crushing weight of sorrow unforeseen—
The mighty heart of England bleeding lies:
A glory hath departed from her midst,
The pillar of her throne is rent in twain,
And Death holds sov'reign sway o'er all the land.

There is no fitting tongue for grief so deep,
No words wherewith to clothe so dire a blow
As that which now hath smote the country's breast;
The kingliest man she ever saw is dead—
The kindliest heart she ever knew is still!

A surging sea of sorrow Europe fills,
And o'er the wide-extended world shall flow,
In countless streams of undisguis'd regret.

No splendour borrowing from rank or power,
He added lustre to the British Crown,
And dignified its honour by his worth:
His brief, yet bright career for ever clos'd,
Shall henceforth be a model for the great
Who would be truly so, like him we mourn:
His affluence of urbanity and grace;
His nobly bland and mildly courteous mien;
His richly stored and cultivated mind;
His high regard for intellectual worth;
His deep devotion to our native land;
His princely patronage of peaceful arts;
His aid to social progress, marked by deeds;
His liberal heart and ever-generous hand;
His prov'd domestic virtues, shrined in love;
His blameless life, and peaceful, Christian death!

For many a widow'd one she oft hath wept,
Whose royalty is now the seat of woe;
And many a tear she striven hath to dry,
Who now herself must weep heart-welling tears.
If mortal consolation aught avail
In such an hour of deep, unfathom'd grief,
A nation's sympathy o'erflows tow'rds thee,
Our dearly loved, bereaved, and widowed Queen.

We glean the following from a host of testimonies to the Prince's character, borne by our foreign contemporaries:—

From Paris, the *Times* correspondent writes, under date Paris, Tuesday, December 17:—"The news of Prince Albert's death, which circulated here at

an early hour on Sunday, was received by all classes of French citizens with expressions of deep and sincere regret, and of sympathy for the Queen. These sentiments are faithfully echoed in the press, without distinction of party, and I have seen no journal that in its account of the sad event does not dwell on the high qualities of the deceased Prince."

The *Moniteur*, after announcing the sad event, states, that in consequence of the death of the Prince Consort, the Emperor will go into mourning for twenty-one days, and adds:—"This sad event, this most sudden and premature death plunges into sorrow the august Queen of England, the Royal family of England, and the English nation. The Emperor, the Imperial family, and the whole of France associate themselves with all their sympaties to these regrets and sorrows."

The *Débats* says:—"The mournful and premature event which has befallen the Queen and the Royal family, in the midst of the gravest political difficulties, will be keenly felt, not only in England, but throughout Europe. In France especially, where Prince Albert has left personal recollections, public opinion will, we are confident, unite in the private but severe grief into which

this great misfortune has plunged Queen Victoria, the constant and faithful ally of France."

La Patrie thus expresses itself:—"A telegram from London brings us to-day the sad news of the death of His Royal Highness Prince Albert, Prince Consort of the Queen of Great Britain. In London, as in the rest of the country, public opinion will in the first place have but one thought, that of sharing the grief of the Queen and the Royal family."

The *Siècle* observes:—"In a difficult position, Prince Albert won the esteem of the English nation and the sympathy of all those who, artists, literary men, inventors, scientific men, form the party in England of intellectual progress, in which the deceased Prince was specially interested. Frankly accepting the subordinate part of the Sovereign's husband, he sought in learning and the protection of the arts and of industry an employment, useful to his new country, of that intellectual activity which he was prevented by the traditional susceptibilities of the nation from applying to political affairs."

The *Patrie*, in an article signed by M. de la Guéronnière, whose inspirations are well known to be derived from the very highest source, pays

the following tribute to the memory of the Prince Consort :—

"The decease of Prince Albert, which has called forth in England such universal regret, inflicts a heavy blow to the Queen, whose lofty destinies he shared, who for one-and-twenty years had been the companion of her life. France, with her chivalrous sentiments, will associate herself to the mourning of the Sovereign lady, and before that tomb, yet unclosed, in which so many affections are prematurely engulfed, will offer the tribute of her respectful sympathy. Here we speak not only of the Prince thus suddenly cut off; his great qualities, at once developed and restricted within the limits of a Constitutional position rendered less difficult by the confidence and love of his Queen; the amiable graces of his person; the elevation of his mind; a loftiness of character heightened by the reserve which it preserved, and which seemed to point him out as worthy of the first, whilst keeping in the second rank; everything in the Prince had won for him the attachment of the English people and the respect of Europe. But in a circumstance so painful, how can the homage of France not rise to the feet of the Queen twice struck in her

dearest affections, and who has known how to make her womanly qualities an ornament for a throne not only surrounded by the *prestige* of her power, but by the lustre of her virtues? Her reign, to which the memory of the illustrious deceased will remain attached, will bear in history a peculiar character, which it owes to the Anglo-French alliance. The adhesion to that alliance, ratified by treaties, consecrated on the field of battle by the common victories of our soldiers, is the brightest honour of the policy of England for the last twelve years; but if it has been maintained by the statesmen of the two countries, it has also been in conformity with the dictates of the Queen's heart. It is to be remarked, moreover, that that union of two peoples in the same designs of liberty and justice has only been successfully accomplished under the second empire. Formerly it was invoked amongst us as a protection to failing institutions; it is now a loyal understanding under conditions of equal dignity for the two peoples; and the world has been able to see that the proximity of the British flag did not lessen our share of glory on the fields of Alma and Inkermann.

"The feelings of the Queen of England have been consecrated by a testimony which has left

among us an ineffaceable recollection, and which is one of the pages of the history of modern times. This is a fitting time to recal the journey, accomplished in the midst of popular ovations which disclosed the delicate instincts of the people the more eager to welcome the Emperor's august ally, because she was the Sovereign of a country but lately the enemy of France. In kneeling with the Prince just deceased, at the foot of the illustrious tomb of the founder of the Napoleonic dynasty, the Queen marked by that pious demonstration how completely a change had been wrought by half a century in the feelings of her people; she offered that prayer to France as a reparation for the slow agony of St. Helena. Such is the impression with which the sudden tidings of the death of Prince Albert has been received in our country; it is, however, the good feature of free countries that such events are for them a source of affliction without interfering with the conditions of their power, or shaking the system of their institutions. England, on the morrow of that loss, finds herself with the same elements of her political existence under the sceptre of her gracious and unhappy Queen, and as it is in her interests and in the necessities of her situation to favour

throughout Europe the victory of just causes, her principles will triumph over her olden jealousies, and she will remain the natural ally of France."

The *Constitutionnel* says :—"As the position of the Prince did not allow him to take any part in political life, Prince Albert turned all the activity of his capacious and cultivated intellect to the promotion of the arts, letters, industry, and agriculture. In that sphere his influence has been most beneficially felt, and memorable traces of it will remain in the history of our times. The Universal Exhibition of 1851 was due to his initiation, as was also the Manchester Art Exhibition. His death must overwhelm the Royal Family with inconsolable grief, and will be sincerely mourned by all England."

THE END.